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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-021
Tuesday
1 February 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-021 1 February 1994

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Further Reportage on Peres-'Arafat Talks in Davos

'Final Draft Agreement' Outlined

JN3101152394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Dispatch by Basim Abu-Sumayyah from the occupied territory]

[Text] Israeli and Palestinian sources have stressed that Israel and the PLO reached a final draft agreement to implement the Gaza-Jericho accord yesterday while meeting in Davos. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are expected to meet in Cairo in 10 days to sign the agreement.

Israeli sources said that the two sides are drafting the technical details of the agreement, which should begin to be implemented within the next two weeks. These sources added that the Davos draft agreement includes the following points:

—Israel's demands and security requirements will be guaranteed;
—Israel will control road junctions in the Gaza Strip;
—Only Israeli police will carry out searches at the border crossings. Palestinian police will be present at these crossings;
—The two sides will reach an understanding on the size of the Jericho area so that this matter will not constitute an obstacle in the talks. Israel will be flexible in this regard;
—The citizens of the self-rule area will be able to move freely to the al-Nabi Musa, near Jericho, and al-Maghtis, on the Jordan River, to perform religious rites only;
—The Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho will have access to the joint recreation area to be built between the Israelis and the Palestinians on the Dead Sea;
—The passages leading to these areas will remain under Israeli military control;
—Special passages for the self-rule residents to move about without restriction will be established. These passages will ultimately be linked to a highway linking Amman to the self-rule area across the King 'Abdallah Bridge.
—Israel will have the right to protest the entry of suspect Palestinians; and
—Special Israeli search rooms will be created at the border crossings. The Palestinian police will not be allowed in these search rooms.

Sha'th Comments on Talks

NC3101182994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political advisor, arrived in Cairo this evening from Switzerland after taking part in the meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Davos.

Upon his arrival, Sha'th stated that 'Arafat and Peres will meet in Cairo on Sunday [6 February]. He noted that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will meet tomorrow to prepare for the 'Arafat-Peres meeting on Sunday.

Sha'th expressed his belief that the Davos meeting has made some progress with respect to the difficult problems surrounding the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

He said that if we reach agreement on Sunday, we will have overcome the stage of conflicts and advance to the signing of the agreement.

Sha'th clarified that an international presence at the crossings has been ruled out, but it is still our right to demand a temporary international presence in Gaza for a period of one or two years.

PLO Envoy: 'Hope on the Horizon'

JN3101204494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Upon his arrival in Amman today, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, told our correspondent that Israel is still studying the Palestinian paper presented by the PLO and that there is hope on the horizon.

[Begin recording] [Kamal] I can say that when I left Cairo for beloved Amman there was a paper comprising 12 contentious points. On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, it was agreed that brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the Israeli foreign minister should meet to try to overcome these points, after Israel had a chance to study them, especially from the PLO's point of view.

I was somewhat cautious when I learned yesterday about the optimistic report that a compromise [previous word in English] was reached, because Mr. Rabin holds the reigns and has the final say. It became evident that, until this morning, the man was still studying the particular issue of security at crossing points, which is a sensitive issue to both the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as well as to the Jordanian and Egyptian sides.

Hence, there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon for another meeting before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan in order to formulate the agreement. However, this must be preceded by a meeting that solves the problems over the issue of crossing points, especially the crossing point at Rafah. This is after Rabin announces that he is coming to Cairo, just as he announced earlier, to sign the final agreement on security preparations and withdrawal within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

[Reporter] Besides the issue or problem of crossing points, are there other problems obstructing the agreement?

[Kamal] I believe that there are still stylistic issues rather than issues that are particularly sensitive to either side or to the Arab side, in general, especially to the Arab cordon states. [end recording]

Peres: Wording Not Yet Finalized

TA0102060194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that some progress was made in the Davos talks, but no agreement has yet been reached between Israel and the PLO. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said last night that Israel and the PLO have overcome two or three of the toughest issues in the negotiations. The prime minister was speaking in a conference call with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, while the foreign minister also spoke in a conference call, but with Israeli journalists in Washington. Arye Golan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will start a two-day visit to Washington this afternoon. The main event on the first day is a meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher to update him on the talks with 'Arafat in Davos. In a conference call from Florida, where he started his U.S. visit, Peres refused to detail the solutions worked out in Davos.

[Peres] We agreed on the contents, but we have not yet reached agreement on the wording. I did not want to draft it hastily or without holding consultations at home, because telephone consultations have their limitations. Since each word is important, I came to the conclusion that before we add our signature, it would be best to wait several days until I have the opportunity to speak with the prime minister and others involved in the talks. This requires a lot of time and patience, but I remain firm in my belief that we can reach a full agreement, although under no circumstances am I ready to say how long it will take.

[Golan] Both Prime Minister Rabin, in his conference call with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Foreign Minister Peres stress that the government will make sure that Israel remains responsible for overall security and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will protect the settlements. Both promise the government will not compromise on security.

[Peres] We have not compromised and will not compromise on security matters, and we must be extremely careful in wording any agreement on security. As I have already said, I prefer to go over the draft word by word, because we have reviewed many drafts during the negotiating process. I would like the final draft to be acceptable to my colleagues, the prime minister in particular.

[Golan] Before Peres leaves the United States to continue the negotiations with 'Arafat in Cairo, he will confer here with Senate and House leaders, and tomorrow he will meet with Vice President Al Gore and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. [end recording]

Israel, PLO Hold 'Top Secret' Talks in Cairo

NC0102112694 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 1 (AFP)—Israeli and PLO negotiators began top secret negotiations here Tuesday [1 February] on finalising an accord on Palestinian autonomy, a Palestinian delegation source said.

The location and duration of the talks as well as the make-up of the teams were not revealed.

The source said that the meeting was shrouded in the "greatest secrecy", and an Israeli diplomat here refused to give any details.

The talks are to prepare the ground for a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat here on Sunday.

The two reported important progress when they met last weekend in Davos, Switzerland, although Israeli officials have been stressing that a final agreement will still take several weeks.

The outstanding disagreements include control of international border crossings, the size of the Jericho autonomous area and security for Jewish settlements.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th said Monday that the two sides in Davos "managed to resolve all problems concerning Gaza, Jericho and the crossing points" but added: "I don't want to be too optimistic, because stumbling blocks sometimes emerge for reasons beyond our control."

He had said the two sides would resume talks in Cairo on Tuesday in a bid to resolve remaining differences, but Israeli officials said consultations were continuing in Jerusalem and the talks were not scheduled to begin.

The disagreements have held up the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, which should have begun on December 13 under the Declaration of Principles signed on September 13. The handover should be completed by April 13.

Palestinians Reject Paper on Arms Control

NC3101141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, head of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks' working group on arms control and regional security affairs, has rejected the Russian-U.S. paper on arms control in the Middle East. In a statement to MENA, he said the paper, which contains many details, is an indirect attempt to give new interpretations to UN Security Council Resolution 242 on which the Arab-Israeli peace talks are based.

Abu-Ziyad explained that in the morning session, the Palestinian delegation proposed forming a minicommittee to draft a new paper or amend the Russian-U.S. paper. The proposal was accepted.

Abu-Ziyad said the Palestinians object to the Russian-U.S. paper because it tries to interpret the clauses of UN Resolution 242. The paper thus discusses the inadmissibility of the seizure of land by force without discussing Palestinian territory. It speaks about the region's states but ignores the region's peoples. This means that the paper ignores the Palestinian people and their rights. He said this approach is rejected because the Palestinian people are now passing through a stage of liberation and the establishment of a Palestinian state. This must be considered. He explained that any attempt to rearrange relations among the region's states must consider that another state, namely the Palestinian state, is about to be established. So, the Palestinian people's rights and interests must be taken into account. [passage omitted]

Projects With Israel Linked to Peace Progress

PM3101155294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 94 p9

['Ali Ibrahim article: "The Arab-Israeli Gas Projects"]

[Text] There are no reservations regarding discussion of projects with Israel but it is important that the Arabs should link this to progress in the peace negotiations.

The Qatari foreign minister's confirmation that his country is discussing with Israel the construction of a gas pipeline has ended the controversy which had been going on for over a month with press reports about the project and denials by officials, a familiar state of affairs considering the development of the region and the current direct contacts with Israel in the context of the peace negotiations.

The Qatari gas pipeline project is not the only one. Press reports have been talking about another Egyptian-Israeli project although that is a different case because Cairo has full diplomatic relations with Israel.

It is clear that the Arab official inclination, deduced from officials' statements and interviews with them, is to hold exploratory talks on joint projects with Israel provided their implementation is made conditional on progress in the peace negotiations and on prior conclusion of political agreements. That is the correct way because it would be improper to offer free prizes while the peace negotiations were stumbling.

As a matter of principle, there ought to be no reservations regarding ideas and issues of that kind, for as long as we accept the principle of negotiations for a comprehensive peace, it follows that there will in the future be full relations including trade, investment, tourism, and so on.

But there are some apprehensions which should be discussed frankly. Peace and normal relations would not mean harmony of interests nor would they mean the disappearance of contradictions. Peace in the general sense means that the parties to the conflict agree not to resort to arms in the settlement of their differences. Realistically, nobody even expects full normal relations overnight because the element of trust requires time and requires dealing for some time. That is why international strategists do not expect a flow of relations between the Arabs and Israel immediately after peace is achieved. They expect the two sides to take their time in exploring one another.

In the view of these strategists, joint projects could, if concluded at regional level, speed up the elimination of suspicion and distrust and create common interests, although what is required at the same time is that such process, if useful, should be within a framework that would give priority to Arab market interests.

Another concern is that there are some ideas that Israel will be the Arab economies' bridge to the international market. If a new regional economic system is going to emerge with Israel as part of it, the Arab side should have more say because it is the bigger part.

The Israeli economy may be bigger and much more advanced than the Arab economies but, according to international studies, the general Arab economy is the one with great opportunities for growth, expansion, and progress. With the dense Arab populations, if the per capita income grows, the Arab markets will surpass what was achieved by the Asian tigers.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Union Summit Postponed

LD3101212294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Arab Maghreb Union summit, which was due to be held on 5 February [in Tunis], has been postponed to a later date, according to well-informed sources. This official postponement announced by the host country, Tunisia, does not cancel the Council of Ministers' meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union scheduled for the same day, 5 February, in the Tunisian capital.

The decision to postpone the summit, which was taken by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, was at the request of Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, in view of the current developments on the Mauritanian political scene, resulting from the recent municipal elections in that country.

This Mauritanian request is not the only reason why the summit was postponed, because according to the same source, King Hassan II [of Morocco] was going to be represented at this summit by an envoy. Moreover, Mr. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has also announced that he will not be attending the summit proceedings. Algeria, which took over the chairmanship of the union on 1 January 1994, had prepared the proceedings of this summit [as heard] and [words indistinct] supported Tunisia's request for a postponement.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Views Peace Talks, 'Internal Problems'

BR3101151294 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 31 Jan 94 p 11

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the PLO delegation to United Nations, by Umberto de Giovannangeli; place and date not given: "The Palestinians Are Running Out of Time"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] "No, the hopes that the agreement between Rabin and 'Arafat gave rise to have not vanished, but disappointment is increasingly spreading in the occupied territories because of the delay in implementing the agreement. Israel must understand that time is a decisive factor for a landless people." At this crucial stage in the Middle East peace negotiations, Hanan 'Ashrawi's words provide an insight into what is happening in the Palestinian camp.

[Giovannangeli] What is the prevailing mood today in the occupied territories?

['Ashrawi] Disappointment, no doubt, and a lot of skepticism, but not only about the possibility of reaching a peace agreement with Israel quickly. In fact, I would even say that this is a secondary aspect in relation to the outbreak of internal problems within our own camp.

[Giovannangeli] What sort of problems?

['Ashrawi] The crucial issue is that of democracy—how decisions are made which affect the Palestinian people's future. Many of us are aware of the risk of not being ready for autonomy when we get there. We must build our institutions, form a new ruling class, and this is a task which we cannot delegate to someone else or postpone until a vague "future."

[Giovannangeli] Is it this shortfall in democracy which lies at the heart of the clash within the PLO?

['Ashrawi] Rather than a clash, I would speak of a difficult self-reform process aiming to strengthen Palestinian democratic structures. In other words, the question is not to remove 'Arafat, but to reconsider his role as an unchallenged leader who takes upon himself all the burdens—and the honors—of decisionmaking.

[Giovannangeli] What does this mean exactly?

['Ashrawi] This means creating a new ruling class that can give shape and substance to the Palestinian nation. This is the challenge which the PLO is now facing: To change from being a national liberation movement into the embryo of the future Palestinian state.

[Giovannangeli] How did 'Arafat respond to your requests for greater democracy?

['Ashrawi] Disagreement concerns the "two-stage" policy advocated by 'Arafat: first achieving independence, and then everything else. I have voiced my dissent in this respect. If we do not already make use of all the energies and intellectual resources available to us today, we risk giving birth to an authoritarian state, and this is not what we have been fighting for over the past 50 years.

[Giovannangeli] However, on the road leading to a Palestinian state there is Israel, which is accusing the PLO of attempting to disrupt the negotiations' timing agreed in the "statement of principles."

['Ashrawi] This stage of the negotiations reflects the essence of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. It is not "good" and "evil" which are opposing each other, but two equally legitimate sets of reasons, of rights. I am perfectly aware of the importance the security issue has for the Israelis, I know and understand their fears. But Rabin must understand that for my people, as much as for his own, symbols have great importance. The Israeli prime minister is right to say that what is at issue today is Gaza and Jericho's autonomy, but he cannot dismiss as being "tendentious" our request to highlight immediately, also in material terms, the actual link between the transitional stage and the negotiations' final outcome. I have never advocated an "everything now" position. I have always been convinced, and still am, that peace with Israel can only be achieved gradually, one stage at the time. Because of this position, I was threatened by "Hamas," but I am not afraid of being accused of treason. My fear is that autonomy may end up becoming a sort of self-imposed ghetto.

[Giovannangeli] Mrs. 'Ashrawi, let us go back for a moment to 13 September 1993. What aspect of that "Declaration of Principles" do you regard as being the most valid four months later, and which, on the contrary, do you consider to be the most fragile?

['Ashrawi] The agreement contains an element of strategic importance: the explicit recognition of the PLO by Israel and the international community as a whole and, therefore, the recognition of the Palestinian problem as a national question. The agreement's limitations concern the ambiguity of certain formulations included in it, particularly as regards the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho, and the future of the Jewish settlements. The risk that I perceive today is that such ambiguities will be resolved only on the basis of the balance of forces, which is clearly to Israel's advantage.

[Giovannangeli] Are you therefore pessimistic about negotiations being continued?

['Ashrawi] Despite everything, I still believe that the negotiations can be resumed, finally leading to the establishment of our self-government. The news from Davos is encouraging in this sense. I had the opportunity of meeting Israeli Prime Minister Peres several times, and I am convinced that he genuinely wishes to achieve a fair peace in the region...

[Giovannangeli] Is time an obstacle to peace?

['Ashrawi] You see, the Israelis, like the Syrians or the Jordanians, can afford the luxury of procrastinating when it comes to looking for a peace settlement. At any rate, they have a state, a land to live on, a recognized national identity. We have nothing of all this. It was not easy—believe me—to convince the kids in the refugee camps that we must continue to believe in dialogue. However, we managed to do so, just as we managed to give back some hope to our elders by promising them that they would see their lifetime's dream come true: national independence. Today, they are asking us to justify such promises, they are asking us when all this will begin to happen. Unfortunately, we still live in the present, under Israeli occupation.

[Giovannangeli] What about your own political future, Mrs. 'Ashrawi?

['Ashrawi] I intend to strengthen the Palestine Human Rights Committee, which was set up less than a month ago in the territories. This body will closely monitor the Palestinian leadership's actions, ensuring that respect for human and civil rights does not remain a statement of principles and nothing more.

New Faction Calls For Escalating Armed Struggle

JN3101184394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Basim Abu-Sumayyah dispatch from the occupied territories]

[Excerpt] In the Gaza Strip, a previously unknown Palestinian faction, called the battalions of martyr Ahmad Abu-al-Rish, which is affiliated with the Fatah Movement, has announced its rejection of the peace negotiations. In its first statement, distributed in Khan Yunus and Rafah yesterday, it called for escalating armed struggle against Israel, saying that negotiations should be carried out through the muzzle of a gun and not across a peace table. The Abu- al-Rish faction claimed responsibility for eight armed operations against the Israeli Army in January.

Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip say that the Abu-al-Rish battalions were formed following the assassination of Ahmad Abu-al-Rish, a member of the Fatah Hawks, by the Israeli secret units last November. [passage omitted]

PFLP, DFLP React to Davos Negotiations

JN0102104094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Feb 94 pp 24, 20

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—In the first Palestinian opposition reaction to the Davos meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, has called on the Palestinian leadership to abandon the Oslo agreement and account for its actions to the Palestinian people, in view of the damage it has caused.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, called for the immediate resignation of the Palestinian leadership, which, he said, is not authorized to carry on with its devastating policies.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP, told SAWT AL-SHA'B that before the Davos meeting, it had been expected that the PLO negotiators would work out a compromise with the Israeli side. But the compromise reached accommodated Israel's requirements on the issues of security and the crossings. It is regrettable, he said, that things will follow much the same line in the future. He noted that the Palestinian negotiators reached security agreements with Jordan, and asked what has become of them after the Davos session.

Malluh urged the rejectionist Palestinian forces and Arab forces to move to counter the negative consequences of the Oslo accord to give priority to Arab-Palestinian relations and inter-Arab relations in order to confront what Israel is trying to impose on the Palestinian party or the other Arab parties.

Malluh urged the Palestinian leadership to immediately abandon the agreement ratified with Israel and to return to the Palestinian people, whom it harmed, to account for its actions.

Taysir Khalid, member of the DFLP Political Bureau, told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the results of the Davos meeting, as reported by the media, reiterate that the only interpretation of the Oslo agreement is the Israeli interpretation. Khalid added that the Oslo team gave the impression that there were Israeli and Palestinian interpretations of the Oslo agreement. He added that what was announced in Davos reiterates that the implementation of the agreement falls within the framework of what is drawn up by Israel. Khalid, who withdrew from the PLO Executive Committee protesting the Oslo agreement, described the presence of a Palestinian lawyer at the crossing point as a presence to bear false witness to Israel's right to control internal and external security in accordance with the military laws and orders of the occupation authorities.

Official on Development of Gaza-Jericho Unit

BR3101161094 Brussels LE SOIR in French 31 Jan 94 p 2

[Interview with Jawid al-Ghusayn, chairman of the board of directors of the Palestine National Fund, by Marc Rozen in London; date not given: "The Development of the Autonomous Palestinian Territories"]

[Text] [Rozen] What role might the diaspora play in the peace process?

[Al-Ghusayn] The peace agreement between Israel and the PLO only concerns the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the Palestinian exiles who were living there in June 1967, during the war. Under the terms of the Treaty of Washington, the rest—some 3 million people—are not authorized to return, at least not for the time being. The fate of the Palestinians of the diaspora and those who left after 1967 will be the subject of the final phase of negotiations with Israel. I believe that many of the Palestinians living abroad will invest their money in the territories. But before they do this they are waiting for the Israelis to withdraw and for durable peace to be established in the region. In order to gain a general idea of the future of Palestine, the other problems must first be solved: the 1948 refugees, the issue of water, borders, and Jerusalem. Its future is also linked to the kind of relations established with neighboring countries. Economic cooperation and development will be a logical follow-up to peace.

[Rozen] Must the diaspora make donations or investments?

[Al-Ghusayn] The effect of donations is limited. We need investments. We want to set up a market economy in which the private sector—rather than just the public sector—will play a predominant role. We also want to limit

bureaucracy in the new state, which could form part of a confederation along with Jordan.

[Rozen] Will the PLO go ahead with nationalizations?

[Al-Ghusayn] The days of socialism and nationalizations have definitely come to an end. Today, everyone is busy privatizing. We want to create a free zone in Gaza with peace, security, and no bureaucratic restrictions, so that investors will be inclined to set up shop in these territories.

[Rozen] How will you finance the budget of the Gaza-Jericho unit?

[Al-Ghusayn] During the two-year transitional period, our budget will have to be financed by the international community. Meanwhile, we shall have to establish an efficient system for collecting taxes and customs duties. We could also benefit from some of the taxes collected by the Israelis during the occupation. As you know, Palestinian resources are extremely limited. Our main assets are our well-trained laborers and the tourist potential.

[Rozen] What does the future hold for the local administration?

[Al-Ghusayn] The current administration of the territories could serve as a kind of nucleus. It will have to be revitalized and modernized by professionals and using technology. We want to build a government machine that is lightweight and efficient. The inhabitants of the territories will be responsible for the administration, not the expatriate executives in Tunisia. They must have priority regarding employment, because they are living there and are aware of the local problems.

[Rozen] Do you intend to return to the country?

[Al-Ghusayn] Every Palestinian is an uprooted individual who remains attached to his homeland.

[Rozen] Why do you favor the political dimension?

[Al-Ghusayn] The psychological environment is of key importance when it comes to establishing good cooperation. When you take on an associate in the business world, the understanding is based on trust, reciprocity, and equality between the two parties. How do you intend to build a future if you distrust each other? That is why we must first settle the political problems, the main one being the refugee issue.

[Rozen] Is Yasir 'Arafat motivated by economic issues?

[Al-Ghusayn] Being a trained engineer, Yasir 'Arafat was an entrepreneur in Kuwait before he became chairman of the PLO. He knows the significance of free enterprise and the free movement of capital.

OPEC Affairs

Kuwaiti Minister: OPEC May Cut Oil Output

NC3001141994 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Jan 30 (AFP)—OPEC may decide to reduce oil production to prop up falling crude prices, at its next ministerial meeting scheduled for March 23, Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said in remarks published Sunday [30 January].

The minister, quoted by the Kuwaiti daily Al-Anba', said a cut in output "would be agreed on if OPEC was sure it would lead to a bolstering of crude prices."

In December the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council—Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain—said it was ready to lower production to stabilise prices if other producers worldwide pledged to do the same.

Omani Oil Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari recently toured producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to seek their support for the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] offer, but his initiative has not affected the oil markets.

OPEC members fear a resumption of oil exports by Iraq, suspended under the embargo imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, may push oil prices to new lows.

Last month they fell to their lowest level in five years, deepening a trend that began in the second half of 1993 due to excess supply, recession in industrial states and the spectre of Iraq's return to the oil market.

"OPEC will hold an extraordinary meeting immediately the embargo on Iraqi oil is lifted," al-Baghli said.

Iraq hopes the oil embargo will be lifted this year, following its acceptance in November of long-term weapons monitoring—one of the Gulf war ceasefire conditions laid down by the United Nations.

Algeria

Chairman Khatib Speaks at Zeroual Swearing-In

LD3101122194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1023 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Speech by Youcef Khatib, chairman of the National Dialogue Commission, at the swearing-in ceremony of new President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Gentlemen, ladies: After the establishment of the Higher State Council, which worked for the adoption of dialogue as a way to solve the country's problems, dialogue was given a new push for political life. The results of this dialogue were a draft proposal of a platform which did not receive the required support. However, we ought to address our thanks and appreciation to the members of the Higher State Council who shouldered this responsibility in very difficult circumstances. Thus, the Higher State Council supported a good initiative which was manifested in the setting up of the National Dialogue Commission whose efforts led to the platform for the management of the transitional phase which encompassed all the remarks, views, and proposals of the sides involved in the dialogue, and was crowned with the convening of the conference on national consensus. This conference was held despite the absence of and hesitation by some parties. Its success was guaranteed by the participation of the living forces which are represented in some parties and economic and social organizations, and led to positive and actual results.

Gentlemen, ladies: Dialogue is the most important method of success. It will continue to be the only way to achieve gains in the future and is the most exemplary means for solving the country's current problems. Mr. President, on this distinguished and promising occasion we wish you total success, beseeching God Almighty to inspire you with the correct view and ensure security, stability, progress, and prosperity for Algeria. May God render us successful for the good of the country and people. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Ali Kafi Addresses Swearing-In Ceremony

LD3101135094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Address by Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, at the swearing-in ceremony for new President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Mr. Liamine Zeroual has now been sworn in according to Articles 72 and 73 of the Constitution, as well as to Article 8 of the national dialogue document [as heard]. Right now, Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, whose official functions have just ended after President Liamine Zeroual's swearing in, is going to the platform, and it seems that he is getting ready to make a speech. He is now asking the guests, who have been standing up during the swearing in, to sit down.

[Ali Kafi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [Koranic verse] Dear brothers, we meet on this historic day in the march of modern Algeria. This is the first time in Algeria, and perhaps in many countries, where alternation of political power is taking place in a civilized way, which honors the Algerian citizen and puts him in the position he deserves.

Brothers, the Higher State Council, true to its pledge, hands power over satisfactorily and on time to its replacement. The Higher State Council, as you know, took office in difficult conditions and stopped the danger.

Today we have to give hope to the Algerian people who suffered during these last years. These people have been crying silently and patiently.

We all must bring smiles and joy back in order to save our nation and people, who have waited for this occasion for so long. Therefore, we must not waste time in restoring smiles to lips and in traveling the road to construction where the aspirations of this nation, these people, and the growing generations will be reflected.

Brothers, I am not standing before you today to deliver a long speech, but I stand here to end my task as chairman of the Higher State Council and the task of the members of the Higher State Council, and to hand over this trust to one of the sons of deep-rooted, revolutionary Algeria, one of the sons of the 1 November Revolution; I mean brother Liamine Zeroual [applause], who takes this heavy task upon his shoulder. The members of the Higher State Council and I wish the brother President Liamine Zeroual well in discharging this task, but we do not say to him what the Israelites said to Moses, peace be upon him: You and your God go and fight; we are staying right here [Koranic verse].

In fact we say to him: Proceed with God's blessings; we are all recruited and mobilized for the sake of making the country successful and taking it out of this tribulation. [applause] I wish, through this gathering and this honorable ceremony, to praise and thank the authentic Algerian people for being patient and steadfast in the face of these shake-ups which from time to time placed us in a critical position. I hope that we will come out of these shake-ups because we are all rational and because of our love for our homeland. I would also like to thank all of the cadres and all who cooperated with us in order to arrive at this great event. May Almighty God render us all successful and may God give President Liamine Zeroual success in this task. Thank you. [applause]

Party Leaders View Zeroual Appointment

LD3101150494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We have met with a number of guests and recorded their reaction to the appointment of Liamine Zeroual as head of state, on the sidelines of the swearing-in ceremony. Their reaction was as follows:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] We are expecting things to start to happen after this appointment. What is important today is what the men of the transitional period will do rather than who is in charge of the transitional period.

[Unidentified correspondent] Kamel Laroussi, you are a leading member of the Islamic Nahda Movement. What is your reaction?

[Laroussi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The leader of the movement already answered this question when he said that the appointment of Liamine Zeroual to lead the country during this period came about first because he was a member of the National Liberation Army. However, what we are hoping will take place during the next phase is that he will work in accordance with the consensus reached by the parties, in a bid to bring about national reconciliation. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Ahmed Mahsas is a historic figure and at the same time he is leader of the Union of Democratic Forces. Mr. Mahsas, what is your reaction to the appointment of Liamine Zeroual as head of state?

[Mahsas] Of course we, as a political movement, did not take part in the dialogue for certain reasons. However, as far as state issues are concerned our concern is to correct the foundations of the state. We believe that the appointment of brother Liamine Zeroual is a positive move in this decisive period. He has shouldered a colossal responsibility. Such an appointment may be able to stop the serious deterioration if measures are taken that will make the Algerian people feel that something new is taking place. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Mahsas. Mr. Abdelkader Merbah, leader of the Majd party, will you give us your reaction to the appointment of Liamine Zeroual as head of state?

[Merbah] I said in my news conference on 23 December that there were some signs for a positive change. I was then trying to hint to Liamine Zeroual as well as other officials of the state. Thanks be to God, time has shown that I was right. We are very happy at the appointment of Liamine Zeroual as head of state because we think he is committed to making a clean break with the past, and he is a fair and strong man. A strong Algeria needs strong men to set the house in order. Algerians were desperate. We hope that our despair is over with the appointment of men like Zeroual to lead the country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further Reaction to Appointment

LD3101231294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The appointment of Mr. Liamine Zeroual as head of state has been received with satisfaction by a number of political parties and organizations, who have described it as an initiative of hope aimed at overcoming the crisis in the country, by opening a comprehensive and serious dialogue. With Louisa Hadj Moussa for more details:

[Begin Moussa recording] Shaykh Mahfoud Nahna, the leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, has indicated that Mr. Liamine Zeroual, who has been chosen to assume the duties of head of state, must open the door to dialogue in order to restore hope and confidence to the Algerians. He added that he preferred a comprehensive dialogue that would end the discord.

Many other parties and political organizations have announced their support for the new head of state. In a joint statement released after the swearing in ceremony, these parties have explained their position by saying that Mr. Liamine Zeroual is regarded as the man who represented the break with the obsolete methods that have led the country to the present situation. These parties have urged the new head of state to work toward restoring order and safety, and to act within the framework of the constitution and the 1 November Declaration. The parties that have signed the statement are: The Islamic Arab Boumedienist Front, the Social Movement for Authenticity, the National Salvation Front, the Rally for National Unity, the National Movement for Nature and Development, the Front of Popular Forces, the Union for Progress and Liberties, the Democratic Progressive Party, the Front of the Independence Generations, the National Party for Solidarity and Development, and the Party of Science, Justice, and Action.

The General Confederation of Algerian Economic Operators also welcomed the appointment of Mr. Liamine Zeroual as head of state and affirmed its full support for him. The confederation said it regarded this appointment as a victory for the supporters of a comprehensive and serious dialogue. The Friendship Association of Algerians in Europe has expressed its satisfaction, and said it hoped to see civil peace and political stability prevail in Algeria after the appointment of Mr. Liamine Zeroual at the head of the Algerian state. The association added that it regarded Mr. Zeroual as a man of renewal and consensus. [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers Congratulations to Zeroual

LD0102103094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] President Liamine Zeroual yesterday received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which the latter congratulated him on behalf of the leadership and people of Libya on his appointment as president of Algeria.

President Zeroual and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi also discussed bilateral relations and Maghreb issues.

RCD National Secretary Assassinated

LD3101143394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Rachid Tigziri, national secretary of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], was assassinated this morning. The 42-year-old Rachid Tigziri, a former senior civil servant in the Ministry of Labor, was assassinated near his house in Bach Djarah south of Algiers.

'Terrorists' Shot Dead; Imam Arrested

LD3101224494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] [words indistinct] terrorists were shot dead by the police between Thursday and Saturday in the province of Blida, Algiers, and Bouira. [Name indistinct] reports:

[Reporter] According to the security forces, one terrorist was shot dead on Thursday in Amrossa, in the province of Blida, after he opened fire on the police from a mosque where he had taken refuge.

Another terrorist was also shot dead in the district of Gourouba in Algiers. He was wanted for various crimes. An automatic pistol with a magazine and ammunition were found on him.

Two other terrorists, who were also wanted, were shot dead on Saturday in the Casbah. An automatic pistol with a magazine, ammunition, and a professional identity card which had belonged to a policeman were found on him.

On Saturday, in Lakhdaria, one terrorist was shot dead during a search operation.

In Kouba, one 23-year-old man was arrested. He was the imam at the Benhaddad Mosque in Kouba. After appearing before the court for sending death threats, he was remanded in custody.

And finally, in Laghouat, one terrorist was wounded and arrested at around 0130 on Sunday as he was attempting to set fire to the post office.

Egypt

Musa Returns Home, Views 'Arafat-Peres Talks

NC3101192594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening following a five-day visit to Switzerland during which he attended the World Economic Forum and held a number of meetings with several foreign ministers attending the forum.

Musa also met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss the possibility of overcoming the obstacles preventing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

In response to a question at the airport regarding the 'Arafat-Peres negotiations in Davos, Musa said that progress was made on several points, but no agreement was reached to begin implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement.

Mubarak Views Peace Process, Klestil Visit

AU0102114194 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2100 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Ursula Stenzel: place and date not given—recorded, Mubarak statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Stenzel] Your Excellency, Egypt has played an eminent role in the Middle East process since the Camp David accord. Particularly in the past few days you and your government have been once more in the center of attention of Middle East diplomacy. What are the reasons for the optimism that Israel and the PLO will now achieve a breakthrough?

[Mubarak] First of all, I would like to point out that the first courageous step that opened the door to an overall solution was made by President Al-Sadat. Without his courageous step we would not have achieved a solution and not even any contact between the parties to the conflict to this day. As far as the Gaza-Jericho agreement is concerned, a problem that has existed for 45 years, it is not easy to implement it within a week, or two or three months. The two sides are facing problems, but I am optimistic that they will reach agreement, although the problems will continue. Still, these problems will be overcome, because there is no alternative to negotiations. That is a fact.

[Stenzel] The implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement has been delayed. Demilitarization had been put off before, now the two sides have agreed on 13 April. Do you think that this deadline can be kept?

[Mubarak] The negotiations will be concluded swiftly. Whether it is the 13th or not is not a problem. The point is to conclude an agreement and start implementing it. There are differences of opinion between the Palestinians and the Israelis. In the declaration of principles it was mentioned that security remains in the hands of the Israelis—at least until a final agreement is reached. Now the Palestinians want to carry out all checks on Palestinians coming to Gaza or Jericho themselves. Yet, the Israelis say that anybody passing through these checks could then go anywhere in Israel. Still, I think that this problem will be solved.

[Stenzel] Mr. President, as there was no Camp David without Egypt, there will not be a new agreement without the Syrians. How close is Syria to being integrated in the peace process? So far, one had the impression that Syria was more or less hesitating.

[Mubarak] No, Syria is not hesitating. I had several talks with President Al-Asad, with the Israelis but also with all other countries. I think, and I hope that the negotiations that are currently being held in Washington will yield a result in the immediate future. Syria is anxious to solve the problem and to sign a peace treaty, also with the inclusion of Jordan.

[Stenzel] Will there be a summit meeting between President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin?

[Mubarak] I think that, initially, al-Asad will not agree to such a meeting. Only after they achieve something will they meet—certainly sometime in the future. The point is that the Syrians want an agreement.

[Stenzel] And at what price? The return of the entire Golan Heights? Do you think that Israel will be prepared to agree to that?

[Mubarak] Well, I cannot speak on behalf of Israel, but I can say that in order to reach a settlement with Syria, Golan must be returned. There may be certain conditions, such as a demilitarized zone, some multinational troops. This will not be the problem.

[Stenzel] Mr. President, what is the use of the best peace agreement when fundamentalism destabilizes the entire region?

[Mubarak] Look, you in Europe and in the United States, who live far away from this area, have your own assessment of the situation that does not coincide with the realities of the area. So many people claim that Egypt has a problem with fundamentalism like Algeria. I do not want to talk about Algeria, but you must not compare Egypt with another country. Egypt has a 7,000-year-old civilization, Egypt has its roots here, Egypt is a strong country. We are in control of all these things. It happens, of course, sometimes that some fundamentalists, some extremists who were in Afghanistan while the Soviets were there and were trained there, and who were financed by other countries, are trying to destabilize the situation here. I think that this is very difficult. If you talk about fundamentalism in the entire region and the danger that emanates from it for the peace process, then I have to say that I do not believe it. The further they advance, the less room the fundamentalists will find for creating problems.

[Stenzel] Are you not under pressure of time? Is there not a danger that radicalism will increase the longer people have to wait for real peace in the Middle East and do not benefit from it, economically and socially?

[Mubarak] The danger is that one has to deal with all these criminals, thus neglecting the economic reform. Only then will the situation become more complicated. We are not doing that. We are pushing forward economic reform because only in that way can we improve the people's standard of living. Only if we were to freeze this economic development and concentrate exclusively on fundamentalism would the economic situation deteriorate, and, thus, encourage fundamentalism.

[Stenzel] There might be another danger to the peace process by a possible change of government in Israel.

[Mubarak] Mr. Rabin and the Labor Party understand the situation very well. Besides, we signed the peace agreement with Menahim Begin. Once an agreement is signed between the Palestinians and Israel, between Israel and Syria, I think that even the Likud opposition, if it were to take over power, would respect these agreements.

[Stenzel] Last but not least, what do you expect from the visit to Egypt by Austrian President Klestil?

[Mubarak] We have had excellent relations with Austria since the time of Bruno Kreisky. I had more than 10 meetings with him in Vienna, and we received him in Cairo. We have traditional relations with Austria. We will discuss bilateral issues with the Austrian president, the support of the Middle East process by Austria, because Austria used to play a very active role regarding the Palestinian problem. We expect to discuss many problems of the area, questions of cooperation, what could be done for the peace process.

[Stenzel] Recently, Norway instead of Austria played an important role as a promoter of dialogue between Israel and the PLO. Could you imagine Austria resuming an important role in this connection?

[Mubarak] Austria is capable of playing an eminent role. I wonder why the strong, active role of the Kreisky era was not continued. We had contacts with Austria, we will inform the country of the peace process, and I think Austria could play a very important role.

[Stenzel] A more active one.

[Mubarak] Yes, for sure.

Group Visits Yemen To Coordinate Against 'Guerrillas'

NC2901145294 Paris AFP in English 0204 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, Jan 29 (AFP)—A party of senior Egyptian Interior Ministry officials has gone to Yemen to try to counter the influx of Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas from Afghanistan, the semi-official daily AL-AHRAM reported on Saturday.

The paper said the delegation wanted to "stop the fundamentalists coming from Afghanistan from reaching Cairo through Yemen" to carry out attacks.

The paper said the delegation was "carrying documents with the addresses of the homes of fundamentalists" implicated in recent attacks in Cairo.

The report said Islamic militants arrested in Egypt, including the alleged perpetrators of an abortive attempt to assassinate Egypt's Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in November in Cairo, had supplied police with these addresses.

They also provided information about camps located in Yemen where they received training in weapons handling and explosives.

The visit to Sanaa follows a recent meeting in Tunis between the Egyptian and Yemeni interior ministers, Hasan al-Alfi and Muhammad Salim al-Mutawakkil.

Al-Mutawakkil told AL-AHRAM then that they had discussed the possibility of signing a an extradition treaty to enable Egypt to recover fundamentalists who had fled to Yemen.

He said Yemen had "set up lines of coordination with Egypt in the fight against terrorism."

Fifteen Said Detained in Israel; 7 for 'Spying'

NC2901192694 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im and Khalid Salah]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry handed David Sultan, the Israeli enemy's ambassador in Cairo, an urgent memorandum last week. The memorandum demanded that quick and full information be provided to the Egyptian authorities about the circumstances related to the detention of 15 Egyptians in Israeli prisons since approximately a year ago. The memorandum called for allowing Egyptian Embassy personnel in Tel Aviv to attend the interrogations of the detainees.

A Foreign Ministry source has told AL-'ARABI that seven of the Egyptian detainees, whom Israel has declined to name, are accused of spying. The eight others are alleged to have infiltrated into occupied Palestine without obtaining an entry visa. The source added: It seems that the Tel Aviv authorities intend to continue to hold the Egyptians in custody to bargain for the extradition of Israeli drug trafficker Yusuf Tahhan, who was sentenced to death in Egypt a few years ago, but the sentence has not yet been carried out.

Paper Urges Arab League To Set Rules on Boycott

NC0102105794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has urged the Arab League in its upcoming meetings to define the rules concerning the economic boycott of Israel in order to maintain a minimum degree of Arab unanimity on this issue.

In its commentary published today, the paper refers to the current controversy over the question of the boycott, which came into the open following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in September. The paper notes that the basic prevailing conviction is that a settlement in the region will have to lead to normal relations over a certain period of time, something that the direct parties to the conflict acknowledged from the start when they joined the multilateral talks for economic regional cooperation.

The paper emphasizes that there was a general conviction that certain criteria governed the lifting of the different types of boycotts as the settlement process progressed, but this conviction has been somewhat shaken recently.

U.S. Official's Call To End Boycott Criticized

NC0102133894 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Jan 94 p 14

[Article by Wajih Abu-Dhikri: "Regarding the Arab Boycott: U.S. Commerce Secretary Puts the Cart Before the Horse"]

[Text] In his important interview with senior writer Sa'id Sunbul, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown discussed the Arab boycott [of Israel]. He said: We in the United States are against the policy of boycott in general. It is part of my responsibi..ty during this tour to call for an end to this type of boycott, which has harmed U.S. companies. During my visit, I have sensed many positive signs for now, he added. The U.S. secretary gave several examples of Arab-Israeli cooperation. He noted that he had obtained a promise from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to refer the issue of ending the boycott to the Arab foreign ministers!

The U.S. secretary, as I understand from his important interview with Sunbul, has come to the region to terminate the Arab boycott of Israel. I know he may achieve some progress toward this "termination," but he needs to answer an important question: Do we end the boycott before or after a comprehensive peace? Lifting the boycott before peace is achieved deprives the Arabs of one of the important elements of pressure backing up the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese negotiators. Thus, the U.S. secretary is putting the cart before the horse.

I know the decisions of the boycott bureau in Damascus are not honored by most Arab states because they are not based on logical foundations. I also know that some Arab states have turned a blind eye to the boycott of Israel and started making deals, albeit secretly, with it. I know that Israel's exports to the Arab countries are rising and that more Arab delegations have been visiting Israel, both openly and in secret, following the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. But the boycott was one of the weapons used by the Arab negotiators in the battle for peace. I appeal to the Arab League secretary general to restate the Arab League Council's decision that the boycott must not be lifted before a comprehensive peace is achieved.

Regarding the Middle East market, the U.S. secretary said that some believe this market is an "Israeli-U.S conspiracy" the purpose of which is to swallow Arab markets. The secretary added: Certainly, the long years of tension and hostility have created mistrust, resulting in several conspiracy theories that have no foundation. He added: The motives of these theories could be understood, but there is no conspiracy!

In response to the U.S. secretary's remarks, I repeat what Israel has stated more than once regarding its views on this market:

1. The Suez Canal could be canceled out by building a "competitive" canal from Elat on the Gulf of Aqabah to the Mediterranean.

2. A pipeline could be built to convey Arab oil from its sources in the Gulf to an Israeli port, thus harming both Egypt and Syria [who have similar pipelines].

3. A phosphate industry in cooperation with Egypt could be established, undermining industry in Jordan.

There must be more, Mr. Secretary, that has not been declared! The strange thing about Israel's views on the Middle East market is that they seek to set up alternative industries to those in Arab states, which are of the utmost importance to these countries. For example, Israel is thinking of building an alternative to the Suez Canal, Sumed [Suez-Mediterranean Pipeline], and the Egyptian

and Jordanian phosphate industries. Even in space, Israel fought Egypt so that it would have no place [in satellite transmission].

So, Israeli thinking, at least on the Middle East market, is conspiratorial, despite what U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown has stated.

Three Cooperation Protocols Signed With Italy

NC2901084494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Egypt and Italy have signed three protocols on economic cooperation between the two countries worth $670 million. They were signed for Egypt by Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, and for Italy by Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta.

Dr. Ghali had left Paris for Rome two days ago at the end of a conference of the advisory committee of the creditor nations to Egypt, which opened at the World Bank's European headquarters in the French capital on Monday.

Debt Rescheduling Accord Reached

NC2901193094 Cairo MENA in English 1320 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, Jan 29 (MENA)—Egypt and Italy have reached an agreement regarding rescheduling the Egyptian debts with Italy, estimated at approximately six hundred million dollars. The agreement was signed in Rome yesterday by Minister of State at the Cabinet for International Cooperation, Yusuf Butrus Ghali. By signing this agreement the Egyptian Government has finalized all the agreements of rescheduling debts with creditor member-states of the Paris Club, announced an official source at the Ministry of International Cooperation.

The source added that Ghali has agreed with Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta on holding a top-level economic seminar including officials from Egypt, Italy and Turkey for exchanging expertise in the fields of economic reform programs, privatisation and several other economic aspects.

People's Assembly Members Decry Policy Statement

NC3001124194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] The People's Assembly members resumed their criticism of the government policy statement yesterday.

The members said the state finds itself in a dangerous situation because of the spreading famous trio: unemployment, corruption, and terrorism.

The members noted the very high prices of all basic commodities and services, demanded a fixed, standard price for bread, and cautioned against the continuing rise in water, electricity, and medicine prices.

They called for social justice in the government's measures and for protecting and securing free medicine for students and workers.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi leveled sharp criticism at some newspapers and described what they publish about the officials' corruption as "coffee shop and street talk."

AL-SHA'B Links Presidential Secretary to Fraud

NC3001104494

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 21 January publishes two articles charging government officials of involvement in illicit dealings involving Fawzi al-Sayyid, a discredited construction contractor.

The first article, a 300-word report by Mahmud Bakri, appears on the front page. Bakri writes: "New scandals are coming to light with regards to the illicit dealings of Fawzi al-Sayyid, Madinat al-Nasir multimillionaire. Al-Sayyid's illegal practices were committed with the help of National Democratic Party [NDP] officials, police officers, and members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. Al-Sayyid has been involved in various activities besides construction in the period 1985-90. Some security officials have concealed a report prepared by government circles about the multimillionaire's activities in this regard. In return, these officials accepted substantial kickbacks from al-Sayyid.

Bakri adds that al-Sayyid transferred a large part of his financial assets abroad after "his relations with an official in the Presidential Office deteriorated." The reason for the strained relations was that the said official, whom Bakri declines to name, wanted al-Sayyid to foot most of the bill for land that the official bought in Ismailia and the Red Sea area.

The second article, an 800-word report by 'Imad Mahjub, appears on the front and seventh pages.

Mahjub begins by reviewing the career of the Presidential Office's secretary Zakariya 'Azmi and stating that "questions" remain about 'Azmi's dealings, despite the "smokescreen" he hoped to raise by filing a complaint against AL-SHA'B with the Public Prosecution Office. 'Azmi, Mahjub claims, owns a 10-million pound [$3 million] mansion, despite his humble beginnings as a junior employee in Cairo's municipal service. The mansion was built "by a certain contractor who has won other government contracts, including the mansions of ministers and senior government officials." 'Azmi also acquired various types of properties in the names of his family members and only won in the People's Assembly elections because of heavy support by the government apparatus.

Mahjub then relates the story of a piece of land that ended up in the hands of Madinat al-Nasr multimillionaire al-Sayyid, after being owned before by a Greek immigrant and then a drug dealer. Mahjub claims that "a very senior official" helped al-Sayyid assume possession of the 6-million pound piece of land.

Mahjub then claims that the government intends to stop investigations into al-Sayyid's and similar fraud cases "in order to save the necks of senior officials who are clearly involved in these cases." Mahjub then describes al-Sayyid's comfortable confinement in a prison hospital and predicts that he will be "released on bail in a few days, after which the storm will blow over and the case will be declared closed for good."

Al-Alfi: Terrorism Targets All Arab Countries

NC2801214094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2112 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has declared that terrorism does not target Egypt alone but all Arab and Islamic countries.

In an interview with the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM published in Saturday's issue, al-Alfi said that terrorist acts in Egypt are similar in the way the perpetrators are armed, the way bombs are manufactured, and the way acts of sabotage and assassinations are planned. [sentence as received] He added that he saw things abroad that prove this. He explained that this shows that terrorist schemes are not limited to Egypt but are designed to harm all Arab countries.

The interior minister said that Egypt knows the identities of the countries that finance the terrorists but does not want to reveal them so that the terrorists who are there now will not escape.

Maj. Gen. al-Alfi stressed that the police are taking the initiative rather than reacting to operations and are aborting them before they can occur. He said the police have succeeded fully in this task and that a new attempt to assassinate certain public figures was uncovered and the criminal culprits were arrested and referred to the Prosecutor's Office. He explained that no public announcements will be made on this issue until the trial begins.

The police recently thwarted plans to sabotage vital installations and assassinate public figures during the Christmas holidays and the Police Day celebrations. The individuals involved were arrested.

The interior minister said the police have been equipped with modern equipment and that they depend on scientific planning, sophisticated technology, and modern weapons.

Minister Denies Hamas' Involvement

NC2901193994 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that a study is under way to set up special funds to provide life insurance for police officers. He emphasized that the ministry provides medical and social care to all policemen and to the families of martyred policemen. He noted in this regard that two hospitals had been built in Asyut and Tanta to offer services to policemen in the Delta and Upper Egypt regions.

Al-Alfi pointed out that the current security strategy seeks to modernize the police department by supplying it with modern equipment, weapons, and technology, step up security patrols, and lift the morale of policemen.

The minister denied that the Palestinian organization Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is involved in terrorism in Egypt. He noted that Palestinian defendant Samir Isma'il Salih joined the terrorists in his personal capacity and that he is not connected with Hamas.

Al-Alfi stressed that efforts are being made to extradite the remaining terrorists abroad, adding that so far 23 terrorists have been repatriated following intensive contacts with the countries they were in.

Governor: No Militia in Asyut, No Weapons to Citizens

NC2801174094 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 11

[Text] Asyut Governor Muhammad Samih al-Sa'id has asserted that there is no militia in the governorate and that no weapons are being distributed to the citizens.

In a letter to ROSE AL-YUSUF, al-Sa'id said that the governorate's security forces are combating terrorism with a high degree of efficiency, backed by various executive, political, and popular organizations as well as citizens.

New 'Terrorist' Organization Discovered; 148 Arrested

NC2801193594 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 25 Jan 94 p 5

[Report by 'Ala' al-Zummar]

[Text] The security organs in al-Jizah, in coordination with the state Security Intelligence Service, launched a large-scale security campaign at 0500 yesterday. The campaign, which lasted until 0900, targeted the areas of Ka'abish, al-Thalath Tawabiq, 'Izbat 'Fakihah, Kafr al-Mansi, al-Jabal, Bulaq, and the pyramids. The security forces captured 148 suspects, including seven extremist terrorist elements, and seized a quantity of automatic and semi-automatic weapons. All the defendants were referred to the prosecution for interrogation.

Major General Fahim Husayn, assistant interior minister for al-Jizah security, ordered the al-Jizah security forces to raid the terrorists' lairs in coordination with the state Security Intelligence Service. Secret information received confirmed the terrorists' intention to carry out operations targeting the police, especially during the Police Day celebrations. The security forces launched their raids at 0500 yesterday in the areas of Ka'abish and al-Thalath Taqwabiq. They arrested 88 suspects, including the seven extremist terrorists.

A responsible security source said that one of these seven terrorists was involved in the recent incidents in Imbabah, Bulaq, al-Dakrur, and al-Ma'sarah. The source added that

the interrogation of the group confirmed their membership in a new organization that planned to attack policemen, especially on Police Day.

The AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I correspondent learned that the raids were carried out by more than 80 officers and about 300 soldiers equipped with modern weapons and armored vehicles and supported by a number of fire engines in anticipation of any clashes with the extremist elements.

The raids were carried out without any resistance from the targeted elements and not a single bullet was fired.

At the same time, another group raided the areas of Kafr Tuhurmis and the villages of 'Abd-al-'Al and al-Mashabik. Some 46 suspects were arrested and the prosecution began their interrogation.

A security source said that the interrogation of the terrorist group is being held in total secrecy and the release of their names will be delayed.

Mufti Wants 'Political Islam Groups' in Dialogue

NC2901213694 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-Rammah]

[Text] In exclusive remarks to AL-'ARABI, Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi has called for allowing political Islamic groups to participate in the upcoming national dialogue. He added: The government's dialogue with political parties and youth of various tendencies as well as with any group or individual, regardless of their inclination, is a good thing. It is required for each side to listen to the views of the others in the interest of the country, presuming that the intentions are sincere.

Asked how the youth branded as "extremists" could be represented in the national dialogue, the mufti said: The important thing is to start the dialogue. As for the question of how, this could be judged by the competent experts who will send the invitation.

It is worth noting that the mufti took part in a seminar held at Cairo University on Wednesday. He stressed that all religions oppose injustice, whether it is done by the ruler or the ruled, noting that corruption cases are widespread in society.

Muslim Clergy Criticized for Slow Reaction

NC3001104394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 1

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] AL-WAFD published on its first page Sunday [as published—the picture was in the Saturday 22 January edition] a disgraceful picture of German model Claudia Schiffer. Eight full days passed and only in Indonesia were the Muslims' feelings aroused. They forwarded a strongly worded protest to the German Government, while the Islamic institutions in Egypt maintained complete silence.

Finally, the Religious Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly made a move and released a statement urging the boycott of the House of Chanel. The statement was issued after the house apologized to the Muslims and pledged to destroy the dress that was embroidered with Koranic verses and the dress's pictures and films.

The Religious Affairs Committee discovered the tragedy after AL-WAFD published the story and the picture twice with sharp comment, appealing to those responsible for Islamic affairs in Egypt to move and confront the West's badness and depravity.

The unconsciousness of the officials in Egypt could be tolerated in every other respect, but not in what causes harm to Islam and the holy Koran. We cannot but ask the People's Assembly: Where have you been all these past days? We also say to all religious bodies and organizations, at the top of which are al-Azhar's ulema: Wake up.

ICO Secretary General Meets Russian Delegation

LD3001000094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Jan—This evening at the palace of conferences in Jeddah, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], received a delegation of Muslims from the Russian Federation, currently visiting the Kingdom.

During the meeting he discussed with the delegation members the possibility of the Islamic republics joining the ICO and also the Russian delegation's invitation to the Islamic States to invest in the Islamic republics.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Ibrahim al-Bakr, the ICO assistant secretary general for political affairs.

Kuwait

Paper Urges New Approach To Free Prisoners

JN3001211494 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Jan 94 p 1

[Editorial: "An invitation To End Captivity"]

[Text] While we deeply respect every sincere effort and the good offices that have been exerted concerning the issue of the prisoners, and while we appreciate and understand the motives of the ongoing visits to world countries to keep this issue alive in the world's conscience, it is not easy for us to say that this method will not produce results and will not advance this issue one iota.

The world may sympathize with our suffering and understand our insistence and why we are losing patience. The countries in the world will continue to loudly declare that the prisoners have every right to be set free. They might couple this with a condemnation of the Iraqi regime for its violation of human rights and UN principles. But, none of what we seek will be realized. Of course, this is neither a call for despair, or an attempt to absolve an issue that concerns every Kuwaiti, and to that effect, every free man in the world. We are just stating a fact with the realization that keeping silent about it, or trying to hide it will not serve anyone.

You want your prisoners? Then, stop deceiving yourselves and say it as frankly as possible because you know it well. If you lack the courage to do so, we find no harm in declaring it on your behalf:

We will say that it is a political issue before a humanitarian issue. It is a card in the hands of the alliance countries, specifically the Western countries. They have their own strategic calculations, which do not necessarily tally with our national or regional calculations. It is high time for us to understand that they do not want to change the current situation because it represents an ideal state that is needed to have circumstances that will help bring a new move on the Gulf map to fruition. They want to keep the area crucified on the cross of the prisoners and of other outstanding issues until they complete the rearrangement of the state of affairs in other areas that have more priority on their strategic agenda.

In light of this reality, we call for a qualitative move to redress the course and end this state of begging for a solution, to begin shaping a new reality that will force the Western countries to change their course and tackle the issue of the prisoners and the demarcation of borders—not as a Kuwaiti issue but as a Gulf issue that endangers regional security.

The best thing that we can do to control this new reality is to establish a strategic regional group with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries at the center, flanked by Syria and Iran. Then, we can tell the Western countries: Leave our countries, as we no longer need your services, and Saddam's army is no more than a scarecrow with which we know how to deal. You will then be astonished to see how well the Western countries can actively and positively move to align their stand with this new reality to secure the interests they have in this regional group, even if the price needed for this is Saddam's head. Otherwise, we shall remain captives with our prisoners, moaning in Baghdad's prisons.

Saudi Arabia

King Briefs Cabinet on Meeting With PLO Leader

LD3101195694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 31 Jan—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon presided over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

In a statement to SPA after the session, Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir said: The custodian of the two holy mosques opened the session with a comprehensive analysis of some issues concerning current events at the Arab and international level.

Through a critical review of the current situation in the Arab arena, and in light of new developments in the course of the Palestinian issue and on the basis of the persistent historical role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia devotedly and sincerely in support of the Palestinian people since the painful tragedy of their suffering started until now, the king made clear to the council the nature of the meeting held recently between him and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee. He said that he had wished success for the positive initiative 'Arafat had undertaken and for the attempts that were still being made and persisting on the peace path to achieve autonomy for the Palestinian people in the territory of their homeland in the form that would satisfy them and which they would view as appropriate to their aspirations. [passage omitted]

The information minister went on to say in his statement:

Following that, the beloved king talked about the economic condition of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and praised the right steps taken to reduce expenditure in order, God willing, to reach the expected balance over the coming years, pointing to the movement for economic revival through which the Kingdom is living, coupled with the continued growth of the trade movement and the noticeable banking activity, to which the reports of financial and economic experts referred. He said that one of the distinguished Saudi economic position is the excellent financial results which companies participating in vital sectors, such as baking and industry, started to announce. [passage omitted]

Financial Aid Handed Over to PLO

LD2901215294 Riyadh SPA in English 1914 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 29, SPA—As per directives of its chairman, Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh region, the Popular Committee for Support of Palestine's Mujahidin on Saturday remitted a sum of 8,852,887 Saudi rials of the committee's revenues to the Palestine Liberation Organization "PLO".

'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, director general of the committee's offices in the kingdom, told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) that the sum represents the fourth annual instalment remitted by the committee to PLO for 1414 H [hegira] [1994].

The Palestine official expressed deep-seated thanks and gratitude to custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi Government and people for the generous moral and material support being rendered by the kingdom to the Palestinian people and their just cause. He also thanked Prince Salman for his constant efforts to enhance the functions of the committee.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid: U.S., European Stand on Bosnia 'Shameful'

JN3101120994 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has reiterated that the Bosnian tragedy and the massacres carried out against the Bosnian Muslim people are a terrible catastrophe never before seen in history. He added that this tragedy is also a disgrace to all those who could put an end to this issue, but do nothing and stand as spectators. This came, during a meeting yesterday, with His Excellency Pablo Puente, the Vatican's ambassador to Lebanon and envoy of Pope John Paul II. The president added that the position of America and Europe will forever remain shameful and disgraceful. He said: In fact, their position is disgraceful from top to bottom.

The president said: These countries not only refrain from helping or protecting the oppressed party, but they ban it from receiving arms to defend itself and its property. In fact, these countries, which have the military power to deter the oppressor and assist the oppressed, do not support justice. It is as if they are helping the oppressor against the oppressed.

Shaykh Zayid added: The Islamic nations, which witness and follow up these daily massacres that are taking place under the eyes of the European countries, believe that there is a tendentious plot against the Islamic minority in Europe. The Islamic nations also believe there is an attempt to suppress and liquidate the Muslims. He said: Such a thing cannot take place in the Islamic world against any minority because Islamic law bans any coercion against the Christian minority. At the same time, however, Muslims each day see the Muslim people of Bosnia being slaughtered like sheep. God may give someone time, but He will never forget.

Regarding the dialogue between Muslims and Christians, his highness the president of the state welcomed this dialogue for the sake of peace and mankind's prosperity, noting that the teachings of the heavenly religions should be applied. He said that the Islamic world is committed to implementing Islamic law, God's book, and the prophet's sayings. Therefore, he added, the Christians should also apply the sound teachings of their religion, follow their holy book, and work for the well-being and prosperity of mankind. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Minister Meets With Labor Minister

BK3101163194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] India has told the United Arab Emirates [UAE] that Pakistan is indulging in cheap propaganda on Kashmir to keep a nonissue alive. The civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, apprised the UAE leaders of the anti-India tirade launched by Islamabad. He held wide-ranging discussions in Dubayy with the labor minister, Mr. Sayf al-Jarwan who virtually holds the number two position in the UAE government. Mr. Azad regretted that Islamabad looks at every bilateral issue through the prism of Kashmir, making a meaningful dialogue difficult. He squarely blamed Pakistan for the problem in Kashmir and said Islamabad is fomenting the trouble to further its own political interests. The civil aviation minister also said that India is not sure whether a commitment made by one government in Pakistan will be honored by the next government. He pointed out that the late Pakistan prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, had committed to resolving the bilateral problems within the framework of the Simla agreement.

The UAE minister, Mr. Jarwan, appreciated India's achievements as also the steps taken for maintaining stability and communal harmony. He assured Mr. Azad that the Indian community in UAE will be well protected.

Yemen

Kidnapped French Tourists Reportedly Unharmed

NC2901114994 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Jan 29 (AFP)—Negotiations were underway Saturday [29 January] to free three French

tourists kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen at odds with the government, with officials here saying the three were unharmed.

The tourists, including two women, were seized last Sunday by tribesmen in a bid to force the Yemeni government to build a road through their region, Yemeni sources and French officials said Friday.

They were being "treated like guests and their security is not in danger," an interior ministry source told AFP on Saturday. The ministry is negotiating their release.

Another source familiar with the negotiations and who declined to be identified said talks between the kidnappers and the authorities had still not made progress.

The three were abducted on Sunday in Hajjah province, 200 kilometers (120 miles) northwest of the capital Sanaa, while on a tour organized by Club Aventure (Adventure Club), company director Yves Godeau said in Paris.

Terres d'Aventure (Lands of Adventure) denied earlier reports from Yemen that it was the tour operator involved.

Ahnum tribesmen were holding Henri Heslot and his wife, both retired agriculture professors, as well as cardiologist Brigitte Fontaine, 42, to press the government into building a road through their region.

The powerful Hashid tribes, whose land surrounds the Ahnum, have altered the direction of the road.

"The kidnappers don't want to endanger the lives of the three French (tourists), but are protesting against the chief of the Hashid tribes, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, who altered the direction of the road," the source said.

Al-Ahmar, who is Yemen's parliamentary speaker, heads the Islamic al-Islah Party, which is part of the government coalition.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry said the French embassy in Sanaa had asked the authorities to try to obtain their immediate release and said the three were in "good health and well treated." [passage omitted]

Rival Tribesmen Cut Off Village

NC3001170594 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Sanaa, Jan 30 (AFP)—Tribesmen have cut off supplies to a remote mountain village in northwestern Yemen where three French tourists are being held hostage, sources said here Sunday.

Hashid tribesmen surrounding Madan village, 200 kilometers (120 miles) northwest of the capital Sanaa, blocked all access routes to force the surrender of the kidnappers, from the rival Ahnum tribe.

Last Sunday Ahnum tribesmen seized Henri Heslot and his wife, both retired agriculture professors, as well as cardiologist Brigitte Fontaine, 42, to press the government into diverting a road through their region.

A Yemeni interior ministry source told AFP on Saturday the ministry was negotiating for the hostages' release, and they were being "treated like guests and their security is not in danger."

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, chief of the Hashid, had also sent an envoy to the village, sources said.

Al-Ahmar, who is Yemen's parliamentary speaker, heads the Islamic al-Islah Party, which is part of the government coalition.

Negotiators said Sunday the Ahnum tribesmen had vowed they would "not surrender, even if we all have to die."

Other sources reported divisions among the Ahnum over the kidnapping of women and elderly people, considered contrary to the tribe's "code of honour."

The three were abducted while on a tour organized by Club Aventure (Adventure Club), company director Yves Godeau said in Paris.

The Ahnum were demanding that a road be built bypassing Hashid land, so that their goods could be delivered to other parts of the country safely, officials said.

However, the powerful Hashid tribes, whose land surrounds the Ahnum, had altered the direction of the road.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry said the French Embassy in Sanaa had asked the authorities to try to obtain the hostages' immediate release and said the three were in "good health and well treated."

Yemeni sources added that the tourists were being kept in a house with electricity and warm water and were able to read newspapers and books which a tribal leader had passed on to them from the French Embassy.

In the past few months tribesmen have repeatedly kidnapped foreigners, including Western oil workers, to put pressure on the Yemeni government.

New Road Promised to Kidnappers

NC0102095894 Paris AFP in English 0109 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 1 (AFP)—The authorities in Yemen have told tribesmen holding three French tourists hostage for more than a week to free them "immediately" in exchange for pledge to look into demands for a road into the tribesmen's remote mountain fief.

Reliable Yemeni sources said the government had given the promise in a letter signed by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-'Ansi, deputy prime minister and general secretary of the Islamic fundamentalist Al-Islah party and by fellow deputy prime minister Mujahid Abu-Shawarib.

Abu-Shawarib is himself a native of the region where the three French tourists are being held about 200 kilometers (120 miles) north west of Sanaa.

The letter was due to be delivered late on Monday to the mountain village of Al-Madhan more than eight hours by road and trail from the capital.

The move follows a decision announced on Sunday by the al-Hashid tribe whose territory adjoins Al-Madhan to halt supplies of food to the rebel village in order to force the kidnappers into surrendering.

The men who seized the French tourists belong to the smaller Ahnum tribe who claim to be penalised because the only road to their enclave goes through al-Hashid territory with the result that often their farm produce is confiscated.

A road to be built in the region was initially due to go through Ahnum territory but was later diverted to go through al-Hashid land.

A report in the English-language YEMEN TIMES Monday said the ministry of public works had come under strong pressure from the al-Hashid tribal chief Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar who is also president of parliament to re-route the road so as to skirt the Ahnum enclave.

The letter delivered Monday reportedly said "the path of the road will be reexamined if the French hostages are released."

Henri Haslot and his wife, both retired agronomy teachers in their seventies and 42-year-old Brigitte Fontaine were kidnapped at gunpoint on January 23 as they were travelling on the road from Sa'dah in the extreme north of Yemen.

A French foreign ministry spokesman Monday said the three were "well treated and in good health".

The YEMEN TIMES showed a photograph of the three French tourists sitting smiling with a village man at their side.

The paper said there had been at least 11 similar cases in the past three years, and that all of them had come to a negotiated settlement.

It said several countries had advised their nationals not to go to Yemen unless it was absolutely necessary.

Minister on 'Practical Measures'

JN3101155994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1514 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Yemeni Minister of Interior Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil has denied that the kidnapping of three French nationals northwest of Sanaa last week was politically motivated.

In press statements today, he added that the kidnappers motive in taking the three hostages, one man and two women, is to provoke the government and make unrealistic demands. He went on to say that his ministry has taken practical measures to besiege the kidnappers in case they do not surrender and free the hostages.

House Speaker Says YSP Behind Kidnappings

JN3101114794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jan 94 p 20

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, by Salih al-Qallab in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qallab] We have heard that you have reservations on some points in the document of understanding. Which are these points?

[Al-Ahmar] In the first place, I want to say that our acceptance of the dialogue that led to this document was based on our eagerness to maintain the Yemeni unity. Our acceptance of most of what the document contains was based on the desire to satisfy the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] because it hinted at separation, and we do not want separation.

[Al-Qallab] But what are your reservations?

[Al-Ahmar] We have reservations, and the team that represented us in the dialogue registered these reservations in the minutes of the meetings.

[Al-Qallab] Are your reservations on the point concerning local government, or are there other issues?

[Al-Ahmar] We have reservations on more than one issue, but as I said we accepted dialogue in the first place for the sake of unity, and we offered several concessions to the YSP since the beginning of unity and until today for the sake of unity.

[Al-Qallab] Do your reservations mean that you do not accept this document?

[Al-Ahmar] No, we accept the document, but we have reservations on some of its points.

[Al-Qallab] What is one of these points?

[Al-Ahmar] One of these points is that we reject the division of Yemen into regions or semi-states. Yemen should be divided into administrative units, which are the governorates.

[Al-Qallab] We heard that you insist that the document should be worked out by the House of Representatives and not by the dialogue committee that represents the main parties. Is that true?

[Al-Ahmar] This is untrue. The dialogue committee is not a constitutional establishment. The House of Representatives is the legislative establishment. The document includes some procedural points that do not need parliamentary approval, and includes other topics that should be presented to the House of Representatives because they conflict with the constitution.

[Al-Qallab] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received an invitation from His Majesty King Husayn to meet in Jordan. Do you think this meeting will end the crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] If, after the signing of the document in Jordan, the brothers in the YSP return to Sanaa to carry out their

duties, then this will be the beginning of resolving the crisis, but if after the signing everyone returns to his present position and to where he is now, then nothing will change and the crisis will continue.

[Al-Qallab] Did you settle this issue with the YSP?

[Al-Ahmar] The dialogue committee is continuing its efforts, and it is the party that can answer your question.

[Al-Qallab] Does this mean that you want the president and the vice president to return to Sanaa aboard the same plane after they sign the agreement in Amman?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes. This is a natural thing if we want the crisis to end and the document to be implemented.

[Al-Qallab] But the brothers in the YSP say that there have to be security measures before they return to Sanaa so they can resume their normal duties.

[Al-Ahmar] This is a pretext. Since unity was achieved, they have been safe among us. Their brothers in the north received them with open arms.

[Al-Qallab] But if you remember the famous incident when Prime Minister al-'Attas's motorcade was stopped at a checkpoint and was about to be prevented from entering Sanaa?

[Al-Ahmar] This is not true. What happened is that when a large motorcade arrived at that checkpoint, the policemen only wanted to check the identity of the official who was escorted by this large motorcade. When they found out who he was they saluted him and let the motorcade proceed.

[Al-Qallab] The brothers in the YSP say they have lost around 152 officials in explosions and assassinations and that their houses and families were constantly harassed.

[Al-Ahmar] This is a big lie, and if we wanted to escalate things, we would sue them for such claims.

[Al-Qallab] What is the case, then?

[Al-Ahmar] All these figures are incorrect, except for one or two. They know who did the killings.

[Al-Qallab] The YSP says its leaders will not go back to Sanaa before the suspects in the assassinations and explosions are tried and military troops are withdrawn from the cities?

[Al-Ahmar] The first demand is approved by everybody. Yes, we insist that the criminals be tried and security be achieved. We are against sheltering or abetting criminals.

[Al-Qallab] What about withdrawing the army from the cities?

[Al-Ahmar] We in Sanaa regard the Armed Forces as the protectors of the homeland and of Sanaa. The Army of the Yemeni Arab Republic has never gone on a rampage in Sanaa as the YSP Army did in Aden.

[Al-Qallab] It is said that Yemeni authorities have managed to seize some lists of the names of the "Jihad" group that is behind the incidents in Yemen and some incidents in Egypt. Is this true?

[Al-Ahmar] Investigations have proven that all those elements and their camps are in the southern and eastern governorates. None of them is in the north.

[Al-Qallab] But the lists Egypt handed over to the Yemeni envoys speak differently.

[Al-Ahmar] No such lists have been handed over. The Egyptians say it was Aden Governor Salih Munassar al-Siyali who informed them about the presence of extremists' camps in the north during a secret visit to Egypt. This is an unfounded falsehood.

[Al-Qallab] But, Shaykh 'Abdallah, foreign oil experts continue to be kidnapped in the north and this harms the reputation of Yemen.

[Al-Ahmar] These kidnappings are directed by the YSP in order to underscore the impression that the security situation in the north is unstable and that there are terrorist acts and kidnappings. All elements undertaking these vile operations are supported by the YSP.

[Al-Qallab] Reports say the three tourists whose release is now being negotiated were kidnapped by the Hashid tribe.

[Al-Ahmar] They belong to the al-Ahfum tribe, which sometimes says it is from Hashid and other times from Bakil. It is a small tribe, but the ones who kidnapped them are from the YSP, from Sufyan. They did so in return for 100,000 riyals.

[Al-Qallab] Apparently, the gap between the three coalition parties—the YSP, the General People's Congress [GPC], and the Reform Grouping—is still very big. What step do you think is necessary to end the present crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] The first step is to unify the army. Unifying the army is the beginning of the unification of the state. We want the army to be an army for the whole country and not for parties. There is now an army for 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and another for 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

[Al-Qallab] Some say there are four armies in Yemen: An army for 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, an army for 'Ali Salim al-Bid, an army for 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, and an army for the Reform Grouping. What is your opinion?

[Al-Ahmar] This is not true. There are only two armies. They are the army of the south, which is 'Ali Salim al-Bid's army, and the army of the north, which is 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's army.

[Al-Qallab] It is noted that following the recent crisis the state of affairs has reverted to the pre-unity stage. Has division become a fait accompli?

[Al-Ahmar] For your information, the situation now is much worse than it was before the unity. The bitterness existing now as a result of lack of confidence is much greater than that which existed four years ago.

[Al-Qallab] Why?

[Al-Ahmar] Because of lack of confidence and because unity was based on power sharing between the YSP and the GPC. I can frankly tell you that unity as well as pluralism and democracy have not entered the southern and eastern governorates.

YSP Reportedly Sets 'New Conditions' for Accord

JN3101131694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] There are great doubts about the possibility of signing shortly an agreement struck by Yemeni parties almost two weeks ago. Apparently, the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has set new conditions. The doubts exist because differences between the two parties to the political crisis have persisted.

Reports from Aden said several Yemeni politicians fear that the situation might explode in light of the military deployments by the rival parties.

A member of the committee that is tasked with setting a time and venue for a ceremony to sign the accord document, who demanded anonymity, has said that YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid has set new conditions for the signing. The committee member said the YSP wants to see, once the agreement is initialed, the implementation of its major clauses before a final settlement to the Yemeni crisis is reached. Al-Bid and other YSP officials, most of whom are in Aden, do not think it is necessary for them to go back to Sanaa after signing the agreement, even though the agreement stipulates their return.

The committee member said Culture Minister Jarallah 'Umar, the YSP representative, told the committee al-Bid will not go back to Sanaa before these clauses are implemented.

Al-Bid, who has been staying in Aden since 19 August 1993, wants security guarantees before he declares his readiness to sign the agreement, which was reached after extensive discussions that lasted two months. The agreement meets most of the YSP demands, especially with regard to a broad administrative decentralization and security arrangements.

The member asserted that representatives of the General People's Congress, led by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, under 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, have rejected this demand. They argue that the agreement is binding and that its implementation requires the contribution of all the leaders of the government coalition.

The member added that the YSP wants the signing ceremony to be attended by representatives from the United States, the European Union, Russia, the PRC, Canada, Syria, Saudi Arabia, in addition to Fahim al-Qasimi, the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The purpose of this is to have more guarantees.

A source close to the president's party said this demand is part of political one-upmanship and efforts to internationalize the Yemeni crisis.

YSP Affirms 'Unqualified Commitment' to Accord

JN3101182894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, has stated its full and unqualified commitment to the document of accord recently agreed to by Yemeni parties to defuse the political crisis plaguing the country.

In a letter addressed to the Yemeni Political Forces Dialogue Committee, which initialed the document on 18 January, the YSP expressed its willingness to contribute to the implementation of the document in defense of Yemen's unity.

In the letter, which was published in Sanaa today, the YSP urged compliance with the provisions enshrined in the document. The YSP also warned against attempts to obstruct the implementation of the document. It reiterated that it is extremely concerned about avoiding media vituperations to help clear the political climate in the country.

The Political Forces Dialogue Committee, which includes the Yemeni coalition government parties as well as opposition parties, will hold its last meeting later today to endorse the draft accord that will be signed by the Yemeni president, his deputy, and the secretaries of Yemeni parties in the Jordanian capital on Sunday [6 February].

YSP Official Views Crisis, Party Stands

JN2901113494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jan 94 p 22

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, by AL-DUSTUR correspondent Salih al-Qallab, in Aden—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Qallab] If some delay takes place in implementing the accord document after it is signed, will the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], which controls the largest part of Yemen, unilaterally implement it?

[Muhammad] Extensive and important discussions are being held at our leadership and cadres level and with the other parties to reach a clear answer to the question of what to do vis-a-vis this document.

It is very difficult to answer your question. We cannot say now that we will unilaterally implement the document if our partners in the coalition refuse to implement it. However, with respect to issues that need no constitutional amendments, that do not conflict with laws in force which are adopted by the legitimate authorities, I say that we have the right to implement them in areas where it is possible to do so. [passage omitted]

We will avoid everything that violates the Constitution, harms unity and could be interpreted as being part of the

establishment of a second state. We will continue dialogue with all the parties concerned to achieve what one can call a white revolution.

[Al-Qallab] It is obvious that the YSP is inclined to sign this document outside Yemen while others believe the signing should take place on Yemeni soil. Why are you prefer to sign it abroad?

[Muhammad] We, in the YSP, prefer that the document be signed in Jordan for three reasons:

The first is that the brothers in Jordan had suggested at the start of the crisis that a meeting between the president and his vice president take place in Amman. Brothers 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Salim al-Bid agreed to this. [passage omitted]

The second reason is that, this time, we want witnesses. We want an Arab presence, other than the Jordanian brothers. We proposed that the anticipated Amman meeting be attended by neighboring countries. There is a direct connection, for example, between the issue and the brothers in Oman, in Saudi Arabia, and in Eritrea, not to mention Egypt, Syria, the PLO, and the Arab League.

We want these fraternal countries to be represented at a high level. Also, there are some foreign countries which from the beginning have shown an interest in the need to seek a solution for the Yemeni crisis and to safeguard Yemeni unity. These countries should be invited to the Amman meeting, particularly France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The third reason is that I believe that the Yemeni crisis is still acute, particularly concerning its military and security dimension. While we take the first steps, during the signing ceremony, we do not want to see any security breaches that might inflame the situation and destroy all the achievements that have been attained.

In other words, if the signing ceremony takes place in a Yemeni area or city, every party or group attending the meeting will be escorted by huge security forces. In such a case, it is not far-fetched that, intentionally or not, a misunderstanding could take place between this or that person. This would lead to a catstrophe because the situation and atmophere are very tense. Huge efforts, including those of the Jordanian brothers, have been made to prevent this.

We believe that the signing of the document in fraternal Jordan will guarantee the safety of all, including the brothers and friends who will be invited to attend. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qallab] We have noticed that all the YSP leaders, including the vice president and the prime minister have moved from Sanaa to Aden. Is this some kind of a strong protest against a specific situation, for security reasons, or to avoid an eruption of the situation, particularly at this stage?

[Muhammad] There are two reasons: Security in Sanaa, regrettably, is not available, particularly for the leaders and members of our party. This is substantiated by the fact that many of our houses have been attacked, and we have lost several of our leaders and cadres in broad daylight. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qallab] When will you return to Sanaa?

[Muhammad] We decided to have our brothers in the House of Representatives return and assume their duties. But, with respect to some leaders, the causes which forced them to leave Sanaa should first be remedied.

[Al-Qallab] We have heard that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad might return to Aden. Have matters been definitively settled with that wing of the YSP?

[Muhamma] Yes. This issue has been closed for more than two years now. With respect to brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, we have no objection to his return to Aden. We welcome him.

We have settled all differences and have closed the January incidents file on the basis of dialogue and alliance, and the formation of a broad front of all the forces, parties, and figures to complete the unity project.

GPC Asserts 'Full Support' for Accord Document

JN0102083394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Standing Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] this evening concluded its extraordinary session, which was chaired by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the chairman of the Presidential Council and the GPC's secretary general. The session continued to review the items on its agenda, addressing national developments, including the document of pledge and accord among the political parties to emerge from the political crisis and build the new Yemeni state.

The discussions of the members of the Standing Committee focused on the means to implement the pledge and accord agreement and the GPC's future tasks.

The brother secretary general delivered a speech at the end of the GPC's work in which he reviewed national developments and the GPC's relevant stands. He stressed the need to shoulder our national responsibilities at this crucial stage in the history of our people and country and overcome all the negativism and false steps witnessed by our Yemeni homeland during the transitional period and thereafter. He indicated that our people have suffered much from the crisis and that all concerned should measure up to their responsibilities and rise above minor issues and subordinate everthing else to the interest of the homeland.

The Standing Committee adopted a number of internal decisions and measures. A press release was issued at the end of the extraordinary session of the GPC's Standing Committee. Following is its text:

In a climate full of confidence and hope, the GPC's Standing Committee held an extraordinary session on

19-20 Sha'ban, 1413 hegira, corresponding to 30-31 January, 1994 under brother secretary general of the GPC, Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the chairman of the Presidential Council. The session was devoted to a discussion of the present general state of affairs in light of the document of pledge and accord drafted by the Yemeni Political Forces Dialogue Committee on 18 January, 1994. As well as reviewing the contents of the document, the Standing Committee studied the reports related to the progress of the national dialogue and its ramifications on all fronts and the subsequent developments and intensive contacts to prepare for the final signing of the document. In this regard, the GPC's Standing Committee expressed its full support for the GPC's statement issued on 18 January, which announced the GPC's acceptance of the document reached by the parties to the dialogue of the political forces to build the new Yemeni state. At the same time, the Standing Committee appreciated the efforts of the committee of the political forces and the document it worked out—the document which the Standing Committee believes to be a program for the next stage in the life of the Yemeni people, who entered the modern age when they restored their unity on 22 May, 1990 and chose the democratic road of its own free will, the crowning day of which was 27 April, 1993.

In this context, the Standing Committee asserts that commitment to this document and eagerness to implement it truly embody the depth of commitment to the democratic option, which the GPC was the first to adopt.

The accord document is a further contribution to the efforts to firmly establish democracy in the life of the state and society. This requires collective action by all forces and the mobilization of all energies to implement it creatively to ensure that it is transformed into practical steps on the ground. The exceptional importance of this document stems not only from the fact that it has put an end to the political crisis from which our homeland and people have suffered, but because it serves as a safety valve which will ensure that similar crises will not recur in the future, and will abort any sedition and plots aimed at harming the unity and democracy.

Hence the need for and importance of the practical implementation of this document by all parties to the state's institutions as soon as the document signing ceremony is over. This is the true yardstick for measuring the high national responsibility and ability to transcend narrow interests and adopt the supreme interests of the homeland and people. Undoubtedly, implementing the accord document with maximum success requires that all efforts be united through full cohesion among all national, legislative, and executive departments and institutions of the state and that the implementation process be spared any acts of one-upmanship. Throughout the duration of the political crisis, such acts have gravely harmed the state and society, thus endangering the homeland's unity, security, and stability, and even the life and future of every Yemeni citizen.

In this context, the Standing Committee emphasizes the importance of making available the appropriate atmosphere for the final signing of the accord document. Meanwhile, most regrettably, it has noticed the unjustified continuation of some ramifications of the crisis, especially the cessation of the general census of the population, houses, and installations while it is in its final stage, in addition to some media ramifications. The Standing Committee believes that if the course of dialogue, accord, and mutual concessions at the table of a national, responsible dialogue has resulted in this national document, which has won broad popular support, then the continuation of this course within the framework of commitment to constitutional legitimacy and its institutions and abidance by the tasks and powers as specified by the Constitution and law will provide sufficient protection for all stages of the actual implementation of this document. Besides, the existence of a broader popular participation in the programs of implementation will enhance the possibility of implementing the document and will prevent any attempt to shirk abidance by the document.

In this regard, the Standing Committee believes that building the modern Yemeni state is a great historic process that cannot be achieved without the broadest possible popular participation, especially by political forces and national intellectuals who really believe that the state of law and order, the state of institutions, and the state of stable constitutional legitimacy that is based on the people's free will, is the main objective which has been sought since the homeland restored its unity on 22 May 1990. This objective was at the forefront of the national tasks of the 27 September and 14 October glorious revolutions.

In light of this, everybody is called on today to renounce the methods followed during the transitional period and to resort to new methods that are in harmony with the historical nature of this lofty national mission which we should accomplish with one political will and with high national responsibility to rise to our greater national objectives sought by our masses to live a secure and stable life in a climate of justice, freedom, and equality.

Given the large-scale Arab and international support for the document of pledge and accord, the Standing Committee expresses its satisfaction with this great national and international response and thanks all brothers and friends who expressed their concern over our country's unity and democratic experiment. Those brothers and friends spared no effort to reach a satisfactory end to the political crisis. They also blessed the document of pledge and accord reached by the dialogue among the Yemeni political forces.

As the GPC Standing Committee ends this extraordinary session, it greets and appreciates our people who have suffered a great deal throughout the crisis which endangered the people's food, security, and future. Despite all this, our people showed great patience and readiness to make sacrifices to safeguard unity and democracy. Our valiant Armed Forces proved to be a shield that protects

the homeland and its unity and that they will never become a tool to destroy the homeland and shed the blood of its sons.

On this occasion, the Standing Committee renews the pledge that the GPC will always remain—as it has always been—loyal to the interests of the homeland and people, concerned about their unity, safety, and stability, and determined to proceed on the road toward prosperity and progress for all the sons of the people.

Let us move together toward the future; let us converge efforts to triumph in the battle for construction. Let us work together to build the edifice of the modern Yemeni state. Let us always raise high the banners of unity and democracy. Our God will grant us success as He is our best supporter.

Issued by the GPC Standing Committee at the conclusion of its extraordinary session in Sanaa on 31 January 1994.

Arab League Chief Offers To Host Reconciliation

JN3101201494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Sanaa, 31 Jan (INA)—The Arab League has expressed its willingness to host a reconciliation summit between Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. It invited them and the other parties concerned [to Cairo] to endorse the document of accord recently agreed upon by Yemeni parties to defuse the crisis.

The invitation came in a telephone call to Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who is in Aden, from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

It was reported that the Arab League secretary general informed al-Bid of the Arab League's willingness to host, at the Arab League Headquarters, the reconciliation meeting of the parties concerned so that they may sign the accord document.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also welcomed the participation in such a meeting of all the Arab and friendly sides that might want to attend the document signing ceremony—the parties whose attendance at such a ceremony is deemed necessary.

League Offer Declined in Favor of Amman

JN3101211294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, this afternoon received a telephone call from his brother Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who said the Arab League welcomed the accord document worked out and initialed by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the Arab League's invitation to host all the concerned fraternal and friendly parties that the sides signing the document believe should attend. He also stressed the Arab League's support for all efforts to end the crisis facing our country in order to draw up sound bases and to build a modern Yemeni state.

On behalf of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah today received a telephone call from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who expressed his desire to see the document of accord signed at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo.

The foreign minister conveyed the greetings of the chairman of the Presidential Council and informed him that, after failure to sign the document in Yemen, the chairman of the Presidential Council would have been pleased to see the Yemeni document of pledge and accord document signed at the Arab League, if some parties in the committee stemming from the expanded National Dialogue Committee had not demanded that the signing ceremony take place in the Jordanian capital, Amman. He said that the General People's Congress leadership agreed to this demand, and, therefore, it would be difficult to change the venue of the planned signing ceremony, especially since the brother officials in fraternal Jordan have begun preparations for the ceremony, in addition to their commendable efforts.

Egyptian Envoy Meets Leaders, Delivers Messages

NC3001210194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Aden, 30 Jan (MENA)—'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Ambassador Badr Hammam, Egypt's assistant foreign minister for Arab and Middle Eastern affairs, who is currently visiting Yemen. During the meeting, they discussed brotherly relations between Egypt and Yemen and ways of promoting them. They also exchanged views on issues and developments that concern both countries.

During the meeting, al-Bid stressed Yemen's concern to bolster the fraternal relations to serve the common interests of the Egyptian and Yemeni peoples.

Al-Bid and Hammam also reviewed developments in Yemen and the efforts being made to overcome the obstacles and challenges confronting unity and democracy in Yemen in light of the results reached by the political forces dialogue committee, the document of pledges, and the agreement recently initialed in Aden.

Ambassador Hammam conveyed greetings from President Husni Mubarak to his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, stressing Egypt's desire to back unity and democracy as an important national and pan-Arab achievement. Al-Bid asked Hammam to convey his greetings to President Mubarak and the Egyptian people.

Meanwhile, Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today received a message from Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi dealing with fraternal relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening them in various fields. Ambassador Hammam delivered the letter during a meeting wit.. al-'Attas today. During the

meeting, which was also attended by the Egyptian ambassador to Yemen, Al-'Attas expressed his appreciation for Dr. Sidqi's kind sentiments. He stressed the necessity of continued consultations to promote relations of bilateral cooperation.

Sanaa Radio on al-Bid Meeting

JN3001150694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received in Aden today brother Badr Hammam, Egypt's assistant foreign minister. During the meeting, the two sides discussed brotherly bilateral relations and ways to reinforce and develop these relations. They also exchanged views on issues and developments of interest to the two fraternal countries.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, reaffirmed our country's interest in reinforcing fraternal relations and strengthening deep-rooted bilateral ties to serve the interests of both the Yemeni and Egyptian people and the issues of interest to our Arab and Islamic nation.

During his meeting with the Egyptian assistant foreign minister, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid spoke about developments in the national arena, noting the efforts exerted to overcome the obstacles and challenges facing the march toward unity and democracy and a modern Yemeni state in light of the results achieved by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee and the Document of Pledge and Accord initialed in Aden.

For his part, brother Badr Hammam conveyed His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's greetings to his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, and reaffirmed his country's interest in supporting the march for unity and democracy, noting that it is an important national and pan-Arab accomplishment.

The brother vice chairman of the Presidential Council asked his brother the Egyptian assistant foreign minister to convey his greetings to His Excellency Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, wishing him health and happiness and progress and prosperity for the Egyptian people.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Salih al-(Qubaysi), acting undersecretary of the Aden Foreign Ministry branch, and brother Mahmud 'Atta Harun, the Egyptian ambassador to Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Said at Work 'To Foil' Accord

NC3101094494 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Jan 94 p 1, 11

[Excerpt] Cairo—Arab political sources in Cairo have revealed that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are working to foil any mediation to end the political crisis in Yemen.

The sources, which refused to be identified, told AL-SAFIR that a Saudi-Kuwaiti coordinated effort recently sought to abort the Document of Pledge and Accord even if this required arranging a military coup in the north that would destroy support for unity.

The sources added that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are providing some Yemeni parties with suspicious reports about the mediation efforts of Mujahid Abu-Shawarib and are accusing him of working for the Iraqi intelligence service and of receiving regular financing to exploit the differences between the Yemeni sides in favor of augmenting the role of Yemen's Ba'th Party.

The sources stressed that the hot lines between Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Aden are constantly busy and that financial aid sent to Yemen during the crisis reached $500 million.

The sources referred to the hasty return of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Socialist Party, to Aden from Washington in 1993 and to the subsequent eruption of differences.

The sources said that al-Bid was originally scheduled to travel to France and Jordan for treatment but actually visited Washington to meet with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. They added that the meeting between al-Bid and Gore was held in Washington in the absence of the Yemeni ambassador and that al-Bid returned directly to Aden, where he adopted the policy of seclusion.

The sources linked Saudi-Kuwaiti efforts to abort Yemeni reconciliation to Saudi Arabia's insistence on continuing joint meetings with Yemen on demarcating the borders. They said that Saudi Arabia wants to negotiate with an unstable party to obtain as much as possible. [passage omitted]

PNC Official Meets Presidential Council Member

JN2901182694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] At noon today, brother Salim Salih Muhammad, Presidential Council member and assistant secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, received brother Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] [words indistinct].

At the outset of the meeting [words indistinct] stressing the need to boost relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Brother Taysir Qub'ah said he was glad to be in Yemen, wished the Yemeni people the best, and hoped that they will emerge from the crisis more determined to deepen their unity. The two also looked into ways of settling the country's crisis along the guidelines and schedule of the accord document.

Holds Talks With al-Bid

JN3101185994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Central

Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], received in Aden today brother Taysir Qubba'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting, they discussed the brotherly relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and exchanged views on developments in both the Yemeni and Palestinian arenas.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, reaffirmed our country's support for the Palestinian Arab people in their struggle to achieve their full legitimate rights. He also touched on developments in the national arena, referring to efforts to overcome current difficulties and complications. He stressed that the YSP is determined to search for peaceful solutions, to adopt a serious and responsible dialogue to resolve all differences, and to overcome the challenges that face the march of unity and democracy and the establishment of a modern Yemeni state.

For his part, brother Taysir Qubba'ah conveyed the greetings of PFLP Secretary General George Habash to his brother YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Qubba'ah also conveyed congratulations on the results of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, particularly the accord document, which, he said, is considered a great national achievement aimed at finding practical solutions to the current crisis in Yemen.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid then asked Qubba'ah to convey his greetings to his brother struggler George Habash, to wish him good health and happiness, and to express the hope that the current close relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions will witness further growth.

Yemeni Jews Demand Protection Against 'Zionists'

PM2801163494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 94 p2

['Abdallah Hammudah report: "Yemeni Jews Appeal to Interior Minister To Protect Them From Enticements and Threats of Foreigners"]

[Text] London—Yemeni Jews have appealed to Interior and Security Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil to "ward off the harm from American and British Jews" and to help them "keep their Yemeni citizenship and live in their country, the country of their forefathers."

This came in a letter in Arabic sent to Brig. Gen. al-Mutawakkil by Yemeni Jews and signed in Hebrew by nine of their dignitaries, protesting against the Zionist campaign which exploits the "poor financial situation" in Yemen to make them emigrate to Israel "with financial enticements."

It is worth noting that an American Jew of Yemeni origin by the name of Moshe Yarimi and a Jewish Swiss journalist by the name of Oneger are currently in Yemen. The latter is accompanied on his tour of the cities of Sa'dah and Raydah by Muhammad al-Juraydi, an employee of the Yemeni Information Ministry, which helps him move around and which also arouses fears among Yemeni Jews about their continuing to live in Yemen and encouragement to emigrate to Israel.

While Yemeni Jews welcome religious groups of their faith who visit them and bring books and educational literature such as Naturi Carta, known as Guards of the City, which help them within their community, they express surprise at the Yemeni authorities' lack of response so far to their requests for protection from "foreign corruption," in the form sometimes of enticement and sometimes threats. Joseph Kaplan and Yosef Amar, two American Jewish assistants of Shlomo Grafi, representative of the Jewish Agency which actively works for the emigration of Jews to Israel, visited Yemen last month and distributed sums of money to Yemeni Jews. Kaplan succeeded in leaving with a Yemeni Jewish woman whom he married on the way to Israel via European capitals or New York.

Yosef Amar remained [in Yemen] after that for two weeks, during which he worked for the emigration of a Yemeni Jew by the name of Harun Murji to Israel to join one of his two wives who preceded him there without the knowledge of his other wife, whom he intended to leave behind in Yemen to join him later.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Moshe Yarimi managed to get close to a tribal chief in the area of Sa'dah and persuaded him to threaten one of the Jews opposed to emigration to Israel. It reached a point where that chief pointed his gun at the Jew and threatened that "he would kill him if he continued to instigate others against the Americans."

The letter addressed to the Yemeni interior minister mentioned that and said "we wish to inform you that we have received ultimatums and threats that they will make some corrupt people harm us unless we give in to them."

Observers believe that the Zionist groups, whose work in Yemen is coordinated by a special committee directly attached to the Israeli prime minister's office, use American and European Jews to fulfill their mission and they exploit the current liberal atmosphere in Yemen and the weak government presence in the northern areas, a matter which facilitates their task.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Intelligence Said To Recruit UN Inspectors

NC3101173394 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Jan 94 p 10

[Report by 'Amr Nasif in Cairo]

[Excerpt] An Arab political source in Cairo, who has asked to remain anonymous, has told AL-SAFIR that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have recruited a large number of UN inspectors in Iraq to work for their intelligence services.

The source said they have attracted key figures of the UN Special Commission supervising the removal of Iraq's mass destruction weapons.

The source emphasized that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has asked his top aides to conduct a secret inquiry into alleged cooperation between UN experts and "Gulf security agencies" and whether the experts have really informed those agencies of the correct details of their inspections and of the nature of Iraq's military and armament programs.

Early this month, the source said, Saudi Arabia paid "checks" worth $71 million to the UN Special Commission under the pretext of covering the expenses of the UN inspection teams in Iraq.

The source added that Saudi Arabia will offer another $50 million for the same purpose.

The source said that Saudi Arabia exploited the international organization's bad finances and its failure to provide the necessary cash to cover the wages and expenses of inspectors to realize its political objectives in a way that makes the experts feel indebted to Saudi Arabia. This is in addition to personal bribes.

The source said that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait recruited several experts to work on their behalf. The experts, the source added, are reporting to Saudi and Kuwaiti intelligence on their mission.

The source added: The recruitment was made in coordination with the CIA's regional station in the Gulf. This station enjoys high-level relations with Saudi and Kuwaiti intelligence through Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, who is also a CIA officer. [passage omitted]

Chemical Shipment Story Said Part of 'Conspiracy'

JN3101154994 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 31 (INA)—Another chapter of U.S.-led conspiracy has opened with the allegations that German and Saudi inspectors have found two containers loaded with hundreds of tons of chemicals on board a freighter at Jeddah Port in Saudi Arabia. The inspectors claim that the freighter was heading to Beirut where the chemicals were to be unloaded and transported to Iraq which will use the stuff in making missiles, says THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER editorial.

The news spread as quickly as possible and the Western as well as the American media flexed their muscles in manipulating the allegations to serve their masters' interests. The above-mentioned media quoted a German official as saying that German intelligence has obtained the information of the freighter from their Saudi counterpart.

Those who have fabricated this story are themselves the same enemy of Iraq. They themselves were behind the imposition of sanctions against the Iraqis and they themselves were parties to the U.S.-led aggression which destroyed Iraq's infrastructure and killed thousands of innocent Iraqi people. Hence what they claim comes as no surprise to the Iraqis who are well-aware of the tactics of their enemy, the editorial added.

When Iraq announced that it was ready to abide by all UN resolutions these dubious circles began to launch campaigns with the aim of putting a spoke in the wheel of Iraq [words indistinct] states to even recommend the lifting of the more than three years sanctions against a nation of 18 million people.

The daily maintained that the human rights issues was on top of U.S. agenda of conspiracy against Iraq. The U.S. and its allies Britain and France in particular released their accusation against Iraq and said that Iraq was abusing human rights in the south of the country and denying the people in the north food rations. What these circles alleged is definitely false because those people, the Iraqis, who live in the south of the country are suffering from the same sanctions imposed on Iraq by the UN under U.S. pressures. As to the people of the north, the Iraqi government sends them their food ration regularly. But the outlawed elements there, supported by the U.S. and its allies, steal the food ration of their people and sell it in the black market.

Today the U.S. and its allies have created another way to distort Iraq's reputation before the international community which is calling for an end to the blockade imposed on the Iraqis. Furthermore, the Saudi regime for its part has been showering money upon their puppets in the Western and American media to publicize such a lie, the motive of which is well-known for the Iraqis. The Saudi regime only wants to keep the embargo on Iraq to serve the interests of its allies.

Nevertheless it has become crystal clear that the U.S. and their agents including the Saudi puppets can never succeed in either undermining the morale of the Iraqis, nor can they deceive the world public opinion because the truth will soon come up and those who fabricated the allegations will be exposed by their own people, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER concluded.

Gulf States Warned Against Supplying Gas to Israel

JN3101132394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has warned some Gulf countries of the seriousness of their plans to cooperate with the Zionist entity in the field of energy.

In an article today, the paper notes a statement by a Zionist Energy Ministry spokeswoman that her government has received offers from some Gulf regimes to supply it with natural gas in line with cooperation agreements between the Zionist entity and Gulf regimes, including the Saudi regime and the rulers imposed on Kuwait.

The paper adds: The devils are eager to supply the enemies of the nation with all the means of strength and existence, even before they sign a single item of the settlement accords. The parties to the settlement process are making more concessions so the Zionists will agree to sign these accords.

The paper goes on: Iraq wanted those people to hold their heads high and to be loyal to their peoples, religion, heritage, and history. However, they chose treason and plunged their poisoned daggers into the backs of those who sought to protect them and who sacrificed the blood of their sons to protect them and save their dignity and glory.

The Mother of Battles shall remain a major turning point in the history of humanity and in the struggle for man's glory and dignity.

Paper Criticizes Recent U.S.-Israeli Arms Deal

JN3001092294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the U.S. decision to supply the Zionist entity with sophisticated assault warplanes exposes Washington's serious course of handling international issues and flash points all over the world.

In an article published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the Zionist entity is known for its expansionist course, for its use of force and military aggression to consecrate its occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories, and even for military aggression against Arab countries not adjacent to Palestine, as happened in its aggression on Iraq and other Arab states.

The paper wonders how Washington can convince the Arabs that it can be an honest broker in Middle East peace talks when it makes moves to consecrate the Zionist aggression and ensure its superiority over the Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Washington is talking of democracy and human rights at a time when it wages wars and kills tens of thousands of people in various parts of the world every year in the name of democracy. It has continued to provide the Zionist entity with unlimited military support despite this entity's criminal record, which is replete with repression and human rights abuses. The United States has chosen to overlook the Zionists' criminal record, their demolition of Palestinian homes, and their detention every day of hundreds of Palestinians. It has continued to provide the Zionists with additional sophisticated weapons. It is committed to aiding their military superiority at a time when it is stripping the Arabs of the requirements of self-defense.

The paper says: The United States would not have gone to excess in this course had it not seen a willingness on the part of some Arabs to squander the Arab nation's funds in return for U.S. crumbs, in return for useless and obsolete weapons and aircraft.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Those who followed U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the past two decades must have realized that the United States has plundered tens of billions of dollars in return for obsolete weapons used in World War II. Nobody knows for sure whether or not these weapons have actually been received by Saudi Arabia. For, after all, the U.S.-Saudi arms deals might have been fictitious. Nonetheless, what is certain is that Washington has received billions of dollars just to maintain the Zionists' military edge over the Arabs.

The paper concludes by saying: The big powers, particularly the United States, are required to take more balanced positions in their relations with world states, and also in their handling of issues related to world security and peace. It should be unreasonable for them to continue to work to perpetuate the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq although it has honored all its commitments as enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 687.

U.S. Concept of 'Limited Sovereignty' Attacked

JN2901151994 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Limited Sovereignty, Another Face of America's World Order"]

[Text] One of the most dangerous concepts that the U.S. Administration has come up with and tried to enforce in its international policy is the concept of limited or restricted sovereignty.

This administration considers any developments aimed at realizing this suspicious objective as part of the grounds for establishing the new world order. This order is a unipolar order that ignores the will and aspirations of other peoples and the role they are supposed to play in the balance of international interests and relations, which are based on the principles of mutual respect and noninterference in the affairs of other countries.

Last year in particular, the United Nations witnessed massive efforts to propagate this concept of limited sovereignty. It saw attempts to provide this concept with an international cover that would lend it legitimacy, thus giving the United States and its allies the chance to pressure other nations and governments to bow to their illegal will to dominate, using the banner of human rights as a pretext for intimidation, terrorism, and forcing their evil designs without facing any resistance to such dangerous trends.

In this context, it is enough to refer to the current General Assembly session debates in which blatant calls were made to propagate this U.S. concept. These calls tried to sugar coat their arguments with sweet-sounding words and resounding phrases with dubious meanings.

Regrettably and incredibly, the UN secretary general has become a party to this process, and in his discussions he openly propagates this concept of limited sovereignty. He does this despite the fact that everything indicates that this concept is an attempt to violate the sovereignty of nations, or at least deprive them of their right to practice their sovereignty over their internal affairs under the same pretexts that are raised occasionally in the interest of the United States and its allies.

Any people that is proud of its dignity and basic right to sovereignty over its own land and affairs must denounce and reject the concept of limited sovereignty. This is not because it is rude to interference in the internal affairs of a country that enjoys sovereignty and independence, but also because it brings international relations back to the stage when the law of the jungle prevailed. It would allow the strong to impose their mandate and threaten to use brutal force against those who are smaller and weaker by materialistic standards.

Hence, the logical question is that if the United States wants—through these suspicious efforts—to interfere in the internal affairs of countries under the pretext of protecting human rights, is it prepared to accept that the interfere of others in its own affairs for the same reason? Human rights violations are numerous and dangerous in the United States in particular, and in the colonialist West in general. Shouldn't other nations have the same right that the United States proclaims for itself but at the same time denies to others?

Despite these designs, whose nature and timing may or may not be calculated, the peoples of the world will eventually win. This determination will certainly have the final say on all practices, violations, and conspiracies that target the world peoples and their honorable forces that believe in justice, right, and principles.

The experiment of steadfast and mujahid Iraq is a model that opens the way for those who reject any form of injustice, arrogance, aggression, mandate, and hegemony.

Commentary on Regime's Deals With Western Firms

NC2901205594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Informed press sources cite a member of the U.S. oil lobby as saying that American companies have recently concluded sizable deals amounting to $40 billions with Saddam's regime. The French oil lobby has expressed dismay at this step on the part of the regime, since it had earlier promised French companies significant privileges. The regime even implied that it was willing to grant the Iraqi Majnun oilfields to French companies in return for billions of dollars, which these companies would have made up for in a matter of weeks through oil export sales.

France is dissatisfied with the changes, which French security sources attribute to the regime's attempts to gain U.S. favor at the expense of the promises he made to the French oil lobbies. Political observers interpret the regime's conduct with France as a deliberate attempt to drag the United States into allying with it and negotiating an oil deal that would ease the oil embargo imposed on the regime and an attempt to restore normal bilateral ties with the United States.

In this framework, the Kurdish opposition in Turkey has destroyed the Iraqi oil pipeline that passes through Turkey, wasting several millions of barrels of oil ready for export—the oil that remained in the pipes after the imposition of the oil embargo by the UN Security Council. This was reported by Turkish sources, but was not reported by any neutral international source. Political observers believe that the matter is nothing more than an attempt to settle accounts between the regime and Turkey concerning the oil that remained in the pipeline. Turkey demanded the lion's share with the excuse that it had been harmed by the Kuwait war. Saddam's regime, for its part, demanded half of the oil. However, visits among officials of the two sides, in addition to the Turkish political stance that recently has tended to demand a lifting of the embargo and the reinstatement of the regime to the international family, indicate that this is part of an economic deal to enable Turkey to get what it wants in exchange for political backing for Saddam's regime.

To avoid embarrassment, the two sides preferred to accuse the Kurdish opposition in Turkey, thus achieving their collective objectives. This means that Saddam's regime pays no attention to the wealth, resources, and interests of the Iraqi people since its ultimate goal is to remain in office and commit the most horrible crimes against our kinsmen in Iraq.

Allied Airspace 'Violations' Reported to League

JN3001094194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (INA)—Iraq has addressed a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued provision of facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraq's airspace and jeopardize its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter sent to the Arab League chief yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued on 24-26 January to violate Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During that period, these aircraft carried out 168 hostile air sorties over Iraqi territory.

A list attached to the letter detailed these violations.

U.S. Airspace 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN3101160694 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] New York, Jan 31 (INA)—Iraq renewed its protest to the United Nations against the U.S. planes violations of its airspace with the intention of provocation, reconnaissance and dropping flares.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said in a letter to Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali that planes had during January 10-20 flown 728 hostile sorties over various parts of Iraq in addition to dropping flares and surveillance flights.

Iraq's representative demanded distributing the letter as a Security Council document.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting

JN3101175194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Leader President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God protect him, has presided over a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan and several officials of the Ministry of Interior.

Opposition Statement Urges Army to Topple Saddam

NC2901213094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Statement by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, on the third anniversary of the "15 Sha'ban uprising", issued on 26 January—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful for their aid [Koranic verse].

On these blessed days, we are reliving the memory of the 15 Sha'ban uprising, which reflected our heroic Iraqi people's deep association with great Islam and their readiness to make any sacrifice for its sake. The uprising also reflected the extent of injustice and persecution practiced by Saddam's criminal regime against this zealous people, and the rejection of this regime by the Iraqi people of all their sects, nationalities, and social groups. [passage omitted]

On this blessed anniversary, we call on our Iraqi people to perpetuate the confrontation against the ruling tyranny in Baghdad. We call on them to be vigilant of the plots being hatched against our beloved Iraq by its enemies, both Saddam's gang and the covetous forces that are trying to find a foothold in Iraq to practice their sabotage mission on behalf of the arrogant forces that seek to serve their own interests.

On this anniversary, we also remind the world and all virtuous forces that the Iraqi people are experiencing a major plight at the hands of Saddam's regime, and are being subjected to plots of physical liquidation, terrorism, and confiscation of public and individual freedoms. We call on the world and its virtuous forces to make continuous efforts to force the ruling regime in Baghdad to stop its criminal schemes from being implemented in the Iraqi cities in the north, south, center, and in the marshlands in particular. The regime is engaged in operations of pursuits, killing, economic blockade, continuous dry-up efforts, and annihilation of all features of human life.

We call on the world and the virtuous forces to abandon their silence over the Saddam regime's genocide against the Iraqi people everywhere. We appeal to the Security Council, the United Nations, and their humanitarian organizations to play their legal role regarding the crimes and tragedies of Iraq.

O sons of the Armed Forces; O Iraqi officers and soldiers: The sons of your Iraqi people everywhere have unleashed their outcry in the face of the criminal tyrant, expressing their rejection of him. They have paid with their lives and pure blood for this outcry. They wanted to rid themselves of the tyrant and its regime and establish a system that ensures their freedom, independence, dignity, might, and honor. You belong to this steadfast, brave, mujahid people who seek salvation. This people calls on you to be the strong and striking force to topple this criminal tyrant, who has violated dignities and sanctities, destroyed the country, ruined all its resources, and forced humiliation, death, displacement, and disgrace on the Iraqi Army. The Iraqi people warn you against being used by Saddam to realize his personal whims of despotism, crime, and corruption.

O honorable officers and soldiers: The current situation provides the best chance for the Army and the Iraqi people to join forces and wage the battle against tyranny, crime, corruption, humiliation, and slavery, a battle for Iraq's independence and freedom, which Saddam is relinquishing—after having destroyed everything—to preserve his power. [passage omitted]

Kurdistan 'Government' To Protest Turkey's Attacks

NC3101165094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Quoting a source close to the government of the Kurdistan region, the newspaper KURDISTANINA this morning said the government of the region is currently holding consultations on the Turkish air attack on areas in northeast Iraqi Kurdistan. The source, who declined to disclose his name, said that it is expected that the regional government will express its displeasure at and concern over this attack and that it will submit a protest note in this regard to Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

Talabani Calls For Kurdish Rights in Turkey

AU3101125994 Vienna PROFIL in German 31 Jan 94 p 57

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, chairman of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Georg Hoffmann-Ostenhof in Arbil, northern Iraq; date not given]

[Text] [Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Mr. Talabani, when will the new Kurdish autonomy fail?

[Talabani] We have freed ourselves from the Iraqi tyranny and this gives us the strength to resist, the strength to bear all difficulties.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] For how long?

[Talabani] Forever. Certainly, the economy is very bad. But there are also rays of light. Thousands of Kurdish villages that were destroyed by Saddam have meanwhile been reconstructed. The people are returning to the rural areas and they are beginning to produce food again. Last year we had enough grain, rice, vegetables, and fruit.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Iraqi Kurdistan is surrounded by countries that do not exhibit any sympathetic feelings for Kurdish democracy—in Turkey and in Iran there are also large Kurdish minorities. And the West does not want Iraq to crumble and chaos to develop.

[Talabani] In order to avoid chaos, our autonomy must be preserved. We will defend ourselves against any attack on us—this will then lead to chaos. Iraq can remain united in the long run only as a democracy.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Or under a strong dictator.

[Talabani] No. A strong dictator has just lost. Saddam has split Iraq. Now everybody is fighting everybody else: Sunni against Shi'ite, Sunni against Kurd, Turkmen against Arab.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] When your people fled from Saddam Husayn's army, the world paid attention to the Iraqi Kurds. Now international attention is rather directed toward the Kurds in Turkey and watches Ankara's armed struggle against the guerrillas of the Workers Party of Kurdistan, PKK.

[Talabani] Turkey must remain unified. However, Kurdish rights must be accepted in this framework. If Turkish propaganda pretends that there is only the PKK problem, it just helps this organization. It becomes popular.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Do you feel solidarity with the armed struggle of the PKK?

[Talabani] Of course, we have differences with the PKK. We want nothing to do with its Marxism-Leninism. We do not agree with its tactics in Western Europe. We believe that a popular struggle is more effective than the occupation of embassy buildings or airline offices. Above all, we believe that it is not a realistic demand to divide Turkey.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Occasionally you meet Mr. Ocalan, the leader of the PKK. Do you then recommend that he give up the armed struggle?

[Talabani] No, but I urge him to look for political solutions. Last March he announced a unilateral cease-fire. Unfortunately, there was no positive response the other side. Ankara did not want to negotiate. The end of this cease-fire was a tragedy—32 Turkish soldiers were massacred. We condemned that.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Ocalan is a Stalinist. Can one actually negotiate with him?

[Talabani] Certainly. One can hold a dialogue with anyone in the world. You saw how Mr. Rabin shook Mr. 'Arafat's hand. And a short time ago it was inconceivable that Her Majesty's prime minister would talk to the IRA. Why should this not be possible in Turkey? Mr. Ocalan has indicated to me through mutual friends that he is willing to make peace. Whether you like Ocalan or not: He heads the biggest Kurdish movement that has ever existed in Turkish history. One cannot ignore that.

Kurdish Authorities Capture 'Highway Robbers'

JN2901183294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Pursuant to the decisions of our party's leader [Mas'ud Barzani], the parliament speaker, and the prime minister, a joint unit from the directorate of Atai-Shikakok [place-name as heard] and Darbandikhan, and the peshmerga of our party's third branch and second center of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, dealt a crushing blow to a subversive network of thieves and highway robbers who attempted to damage and steal parts from the Darbandikhan-Bawa Nor telephone network. The operation took place at midnight on 27-28 January 1994. In this successful operation, the unit managed to capture 14 thieves and five cars. They were handed to the judicial authorities so that they would receive their fair punishment.

Rebel Radio Reports Antigovernment Operations

NC2901201594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The Islamic resistance forces have carried out a daring operation during which they took full control of the (al-Shib-Ghuzaylah) road in al-'Amarah Governorate. Reports from the rebellious south say that Islamic resistance groups attacked regime vehicles and convoys passing along that road. A military vehicle that tried to escape was destroyed and all its occupants killed.

Meanwhile, our sources said that Islamic resistance groups attacked a military bus carrying 23 mercenaries and a small military vehicle with four mercenary passengers. The two vehicles were completely destroyed, their passengers killed or wounded, and huge amounts of military equipment and supplies were captured.

Resistance Kills al-Basrah Party Secretary

NC3101162994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpt] After accurate reconnaissance, a unit of the Islamic resistance forces attacked the criminal secretary of the ruling party's branch in al-Basrah Governorate.

Reporting this, our sources said the Islamic resistance heroes killed the ruling party's secretary and three of his guards; they then returned safely to base. [passage omitted]

Regime Reportedly Kills Detainees in Prison

NC0102075094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tyrant Saddam's regime recently liquidated another group of detainees in al-Radwaniyah Prison near Baghdad.

Our sources said Saddam's regime handed the body of martyr 'Ammar al-Maliki and the bodies of 20 other mujahidin to their families in Baghdad. On 15 January, the regime also handed over the bodies of 50 martyrs in al-Basrah, including the bodies of Husayn al-'Ibadi and Musa al-Hanafi.

Al-Radwaniyah Prison southwest of Baghdad is currently the largest detention center in Iraq and run by tyrant Saddam's in-law Saddam Kamil. The prison, called the murder prison, was originally built as a military camp and was used during the Iraq-Iran war as a camp for Iranian prisoners. After the March 1991 uprising, it was converted to a large detention center. The prison is currently occupied by thousands of (?inmates)—those the regime suspects of taking part in the uprising—especially people from the center and the south.

Rabin on Confederation, Settlements, Syria

AU3101205594 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 31 Jan 94 pp 126-129

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Wolfgang Kaden, Stefan Simons, and Olaf Ihlau; place and date not given: "We Are at a Crossroads"]

[Text] [SPIEGEL] Four months after the historic Washington Declaration of Principles, the Arab-Israeli peace process has now reached a decisive stage: Will a breakthrough be achieved now or will there be a setback that will call everything into question once again?

[Rabin] My goal is to end the 100-year conflict between Jews and Palestinians. The first great step forward was achieved in Washington last September...

[SPIEGEL] ...but nothing has happened with respect to the basic treaty that was to come into force on 13 December. Why have you allowed yourself to end up in such a tight spot?

[Rabin] The fact that we could not meet that deadline—three months after the signing—in no way means that there has been a setback. Whoever levels accusations at us about that is not aware of the pitfalls that were hidden in the agreement. The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations that are under way in Taba, Oslo, Paris, and Cairo are no longer about principles, but about details.

[SPIEGEL] So, the details are the problem now.

[Rabin] It is particularly awkward to negotiate something with the Palestinians. We want a new reality, peaceful coexistence between two peoples between whom—for goodness' sake—there is no love, but profound distrust. On top of everything, the two peoples are closely intermingled. That is why it is exceptionally difficult to implement the basic agreement. There are a great many issues that have to be clarified: security, infrastructure, jobs, and the supply of water and electricity.

[SPIEGEL] And how long should the clarification process last?

[Rabin] In my opinion, we need another two or three months really to settle all the details. That is the only way in which we can achieve our goal. However, I am sure that we will achieve it.

[SPIEGEL] Many Palestinians feel that you are deliberately playing for time.

[Rabin] Nothing works without patience. Ultimately, we are trying to end a conflict that has gone on for 100 years. Germany and France did not become friends overnight.

[SPIEGEL] So why did you promise to start the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho on 13 December? By setting a schedule did you not put yourself under pressure?

[Rabin] That was undoubtedly a mistake, one that we both made, and I told that to 'Arafat at our third meeting on 12 December. We should have met much earlier and discussed everything. 'Arafat suddenly chose to interpret the treaty in a way that was entirely different from that of his team, and he did so with respect to all the basic points, such as our responsibility for border security. 'Arafat suddenly changed his position by 180 degrees. We could have avoided such misunderstandings.

[SPIEGEL] When you shook hands with the PLO chief at the White House, your aversion to doing so was clearly visible.

[Rabin] My feelings have got nothing to with it. I had made the basic decision of holding negotiations with the PLO.

[SPIEGEL] President Clinton had to give you considerable help when it came to shaking hands.

[Rabin] We were together with the president for one moment before the ceremony. At first we did not say anything to each other, then I said to 'Arafat: It will be difficult to implement this treaty. 'Arafat replied: Yes, it will be very difficult.

[SPIEGEL] You have met 'Arafat several times since then: Do you trust him today?

[Rabin] I would be wary of saying anything publicly about 'Arafat's character in the middle of negotiations. As far as I am concerned the choice was either we speak to the PLO or we have to tackle the Islamic extremists in the Hamas Movement. If Israel wants peace with its neighbors, then it has to deal with enemies, often mortal enemies. 'Arafat and I are aware of the responsibility that we have assumed. Ultimately, the results that we achieve will show what the risk that we have taken was worth.

[SPIEGEL] You have not gotten much to show for it so far. Every delay weakens 'Arafat's position and his ability to make concessions. That cannot be very convenient for you?

[Rabin] It is true that we are behind schedule. However, in the meantime, the Palestinian opponents of the treaty have intensified their terror campaign against Israel. It comes as no surprise that our enthusiasm for the treaty has begun to wane.

[SPIEGEL] That is equally true of the Palestinians, who suspect that Israel is playing some kind of dishonest game.

[Rabin] Excuse me for having to point something out to you: There is no democracy in the Arab countries, at least not in the sense in which there is democracy in Israel and the Western countries. We have to deal with authoritarian or totalitarian regimes.

[SPIEGEL] That is precisely that accusation that the opposition is leveling against you, that you want to conclude an agreement with politicians of that sort.

[Rabin] I do not expect 'Arafat to have his Palestinians under control before he has set up a strong security apparatus of his own in the Gaza.

[SPIEGEL] Why do you not want to make a humanitarian gesture and release the 12,000 Palestinians that are incarcerated in Israeli prisons?

[Rabin] I do not believe that the release of the approximately 9,000 prisoners would be a contribution to overall security. Israeli support for the peace treaty is declining, because of the rising number of terrorist attacks.

[SPIEGEL] As you have said, there is 100 years of hatred and confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians. Does the population of Israel really desire a reconciliation?

[Rabin] Everyone is talking about peace, but everyone interprets peace differently. One thing is clear: There will only be peace if all the parties concerned are prepared to make painful compromises. Whoever believes that conflict with the Palestinians can be ended without granting them autonomy will not achieve peace.

[SPIEGEL] Autonomy is not enough for the Palestinians. It is the first step toward their own state. Can you imagine such a state existing alongside Israel?

[Rabin] In the longer term, I can imagine a confederation composed of the sovereign states of Israel and Jordan and within that, a Palestinian entity with its own administration, but not an independent Palestinian state.

[SPIEGEL] What status would Jerusalem—a capital city for both Israelis and Palestinians—have then?

[Rabin] Jerusalem is the capital city of the Jewish state. It cannot be divided.

[SPIEGEL] It must above all be difficult for the 130,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied territories to give up the goal of a greater Israel, which includes the biblical lands in western Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

[Rabin] I personally do not believe in a greater Israel that would include the occupied territories. That would mean that we would not only annex western Jordan and the Gaza Strip, but by including those territories, we would also forcibly place 1.8 million Palestinians under our authority, people who are different from us in terms of politics, religion, and culture. Israel would thus become a binational state and not the realization of the 2,000-year-old Jewish dream of a return to Zion.

[SPIEGEL] Does that mean a return to 1967 borders?

[Rabin] I am opposed to that. We have a right to insist on changes to borders, especially with regard to security. That would entail a limited inclusion of other territories, but with as few Palestinians as possible.

[SPIEGEL] What would happen to the 144 settlements in the occupied territories then?

[Rabin] We have to distinguish between the settlements that are important for Israel's security and those settlements that—contrary to our will—were created by the Likud Party for political reasons. I do not believe that the latter are a contribution to the security of our country.

[SPIEGEL] They could become a danger. Radical settlers have announced that they will offer militant resistance vis-a-vis the Palestinians.

[Rabin] I would ask you not to draw conclusions too hastily. We will deal with the question when it arises. During the transitional period of the treaty, the settlements will remain where they are.

[SPIEGEL] You were a professional soldier and a hero of the 1967 Six-Day War. What has actually turned you into a dove?

[Rabin] I did not become a soldier out of a sense of vocation, but because of circumstance. I went to agricultural college and actually wanted to become a hydraulic engineer. Then World War II broke out. I was unable to study and joined the Israeli underground army, the Palmach. I was a soldier for 27 years....

[SPIEGEL] .... and made it to the post of chief of the general staff.

[Rabin] Fortunately, I was head of the general staff during the most successful war that Israel has waged, the Six-Day War. During my entire time in the military, I was aware that we need to be militarily strong to safeguard our security. At the same time, it was also clear to me that our military power must be translated into political terms. The Arab-Israeli conflict should no longer be settled on the battlefield. One should not just leave wars to the generals, but the search for peace should also not just be left to politicians.

[SPIEGEL] So, do you want to appear in the history books as the person who achieved peace?

[Rabin] Believe me, I am not concerned about titles, fame, and office. I have been almost everything that one can be in our country: head of the general staff, ambassador in Washington, defense minister, and prime minister—I am not concerned about this position that I am occupying now. What I am concerned about is achieving security and peace for Israel. The current regional and international layout of forces provides a unique opportunity.

[SPIEGEL] Being an old military man, your critics accuse you of being committed to the peace process not with your heart, but with your head.

[Rabin] For Israel, peace always means that we have to pay, usually with territorial concessions. What did we receive in return? Words, treaties. It is worth noting that such agreements are not with democratic states, but with authoritarian regimes. That is why I have to constantly ask myself: What about our security? With the wars that it waged, Israel took great risks, and now we must also risk a great deal for peace.

[SPIEGEL] Are you now counting on peace and reconciliation, because you believe that Israel's strategic superiority in the Middle East is being gradually reduced?

[Rabin] Not at all. We have time, but that is not the point at issue. We are living in a new age. The Cold War is over,

and the Soviet Union has disappeared as a source of disruption in the Middle East. The United States, which acted resolutely in the Gulf war, has acted resolutely. That has led some Arab leaders to think things over. Who knows whether Syria's President Asad would have opted for the path of peace if he had still had Moscow's military and economic support.

[SPIEGEL] That almost makes it sound as if Israel now lives in a world without real enemies.

[Rabin] In the longer term, there are, of course, dangers: the growing strength of Islamic extremists in almost all Arab countries and the lunatic ambitions of the regime in Iran that is behind these movements. Apart from that, Iran and Iraq are seeking to become nuclear powers by the year 2000.

[SPIEGEL] Why do you trust President al-Asad today? The Syrian leader is an ally of Iran and still fundamentalists and terrorists.

[Rabin] Previously, al-Asad sought to keep up with Israel militarily. He can no longer hope to do that today. Of course, there always is the danger of a return to the past, and there is speculation that a new Damascus-Tehran-Baghdad axis will be formed. I do not think that that will happen. Only one thing is certain: This year we are standing at a crossroads. The year 1994 will tell us whether the Middle East will be move toward peace or will be stuck in a stalemate situation.

[SPIEGEL] And stalemate would mean war when the next move is played?

[Rabin] Perhaps not next year, but possibly in five or seven years' time.

[SPIEGEL] That is why the Americans are trying to draw the Syrians into the peace process. Do you feel that you have to some extent been placed under pressure by U.S. President Clinton?

[Rabin] It is clear that the Americans want Israel to be at peace with all its Arab neighbors. Washington does not have to tell me that the key partners in that respect are the Syrians and the Palestinians. The Palestinians do not consitute a danger to Israel's existence, but the Syrians do. If we manage to settle matters with them, to achieve a genuine peace—as we did with Egypt—then we will have created a security zone around us, a buffer against potential enemies in a war such as Iran or Iraq.

[SPIEGEL] So, are you ready to return the Golan Heights, which were captured from Syria in 1967, to achieve peace?

[Rabin] It would not be particularly wise to set out the course of our current negotiations with Syria at this stage. I will not say in public that I am ready to pay the highest price. Both sides are trying to achieve as much as possible for themselves.

[SPIEGEL] Do you really believe that Asad will be satisfied with less than Egypt's President Sadat was? He got back the entire Sinai Peninsula from Israel.

[Rabin] That is a nice question, but I cannot answer it. New circumstances exist, and those justify a different course of action on the part of Israel.

[SPIEGEL] Even a partial return of the Golan Heights would mean that Israeli settlements would have been abandoned.

[Rabin] I would like to say once again that in the current complex situation, you cannot expect me to give a clear-cut answer. Our talks with the Syrians have just started up once again. We are seeking to conduct them as discreetly as possible, in the same way that we pursued talks with the Egyptians at one time.

[SPIEGEL] The Camp David peace agreements mean that in 1990 Israeli settlers had to leave the Sinai, which was returned to Egypt.

[Rabin] I know.

[SPIEGEL] Are you afraid that opponents of the treaty—fanatical Palestinians or Israeli extremists—will nevertheless try to torpedo the peace process with terrorist attacks?

[Rabin] That could already happen today, while we are still in charge, or it might not happen until tomorrow, once Jericho and the Gaza Strip are under PLO control. Then it will transpire whether Arafat's security forces can ensure law and order and whether they can prevent the Gaza Strip from becoming a shelter for terrorists. To my mind, that is the decisive test of whether Palestinians are really willing to accept peaceful coexistence and whether they are capable of that.

[SPIEGEL] Prime minister, thank you for talking to us.

'Territorial Corridors' Said War on Settlement

TA3101165594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] In a letter sent to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, settlers in the Jordan Valley write that if reports are true that Israel agreed to set up three territorial corridors—which will dissect the Jordan Rift Valley—this constitutes a declaration of war on settlement in the Jordan Valley. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the settlers go on to tell the prime minister: Do not force settlers who merely want to farm to turn into warriors fighting for their homes and lives. The settlers say they will not put up with such lethal blows and will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian corridor anywhere in the Jordan Valley.

Commentary Suggests Lebanon Withdrawal as Gesture

TA3001174794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Jan 94 p 9

[Commentary by Avner Regev: "Lebanon First"]

[Excerpts] The disparity between the headlines heralding progress in the political process and the information about the situation in the territories delivered in various forums presents us with a serious dilemma. If, as reported by the

media, the Palestinians are prepared to assume control, and the delay is the result of minor disagreements, how do we explain the pronouncement of army officers involved in the territories population's everyday life that the confusion there is so great that practical discussions on the transfer of rule cannot be launched? [passage omitted]

Even now the Palestinians are trying to secure external manifestations of political independence. For them, the interim arrangement is close to an independent state. For them, the permanent arrangements go beyond the achievements of the interim arrangement, and they will deal mainly with the borders of the state-to-be, the status of Jerusalem, and the refugees' right of return. Thus the prime minister, who understands the dilemma and has reservations about the Palestinian stands—and is occasionally prepared to accept certain demands while never forgetting the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers' assessments—has a problem on his hands. He can slow down the process with the Palestinians until the situation on the ground permits the transfer of control to be made. He can make a unilateral move, such as withdrawing from Gaza, or he can make a 180-degree turnabout, launching serious negotiations with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan with the objective of reaching full peace.

One of the ideas discussed recently in political corridors speaks of a special gesture toward Syria in Lebanon. The exit from certain Lebanese areas and the reduction of the security zone's size in the first stage may display goodwill that will help the Syrians to evince more flexibility at the negotiating table. In addition, a unilateral gesture in Lebanon will be welcomed by the Americans, who, while favoring the negotiations with the Palestinians, have repeatedly shown their dissatisfaction with the Oslo accord. The U.S. Administration takes a positive view of negotiations with bona fide countries, even dictatorial ones, and a less than positive view of talks with organizations which have no established territorial basis, organizations whose aspirations for independence may not even have the support of other countries in the region.

An accelerated process with Syria stands a chance of culminating in a positive outcome that will impact the region no less, and perhaps more, than a fragile interim agreement with the Palestinians. An accord with Syria will result in an arrangement in Lebanon and peace with Jordan, isolating the Palestinian problem.

The al-Asad-Clinton summit has created a certain momentum and the prospects of progress are good. A move with the Syrians that includes significant territorial withdrawal will enjoy the support of Likud figures—unlike the emerging agreement with the Palestinians. Rabin called on al-Asad to make another courageous move, to meet him halfway. If al-Asad has indeed come to the conclusion that peace is a strategic goal, he can be trusted to make a move that will convince the prime minister of the seriousness of his intentions.

In parallel, Israel can make a unilateral move in south Lebanon, one that will not impair its security while helping to ease the tension between the two countries. This category includes King Husayn's declaration in Washington concerning his willingness to openly meet with Rabin. An overt meeting would be a natural sequel to the clandestine meetings held over the years, and one may safely assume that this time it will culminate in understandings that will lead to a signed agreement with Jordan. We can presume that Husayn made his Washington declaration after coordinating positions with Damascus, and it should be seen as a clue to al-Asad's desire to reach full peace on all fronts, including Jordan and Lebanon.

When he entered office about 18 months ago, Rabin waited for some signal from al-Asad—secret or overt—that would supply him with a good reason to move faster in the political process. For a long period, al-Asad took his time, and that brought about the Oslo agreement. Perhaps the opening Rabin has been expecting for months has just been breached, and it will now be possible to move on to a new era on the northern border, one in which no security threats will loom over Israel any longer. Lebanon First may be a possible and a desirable solution.

U.S. Changes in Trade Agreement Elicit Concern

TA3001111894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 94 p C1

["Exclusive" report from New York by Hayim Handwerker]

[Excerpts] Israeli economic sources have expressed fear that the United States is trying to surreptitiously alter the spirit of the free trade agreement between the two countries by changing the regulations pertaining to the country of origin. [passage omitted]

According to the agreement between the United States and Israel, any change in the free trade agreement requires prior consultations and agreement. U.S. sources promised Israeli representatives that Israel had no reason to be concerned. Officials in Jerusalem nevertheless fear that certain Israeli industries may be seriously affected by these changes. Israel has still not studied the changes in the rule of origin provisions; however, it seems that the Israeli textile industry, for example, could be badly hurt by the anticipated tightening of the rules.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish have sent letters to Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen and U.S. Trade Commissioner Kantor expressing concern about the recently proposed changes in the rules of origin, designed to maintain harmonious trade relations between the United States and the NAFTA countries and ease the load on U.S. customs. As a result of these changes, Israeli companies may be asked to pay customs on products previously exempt under the free trade agreement.

The U.S. officials have not yet replied. The matter was also raised in the talks between Shohat and U.S. Trade Secretary Ron Brown in mid-January. [passage omitted]

Officials in Jerusalem are worried because the proposal calls for comprehensive regulations stipulating, among

other things, that whenever there is a discrepancy between various rules of origin and the NAFTA regulations, the latter will prevail. NAFTA regulations on rules of origin are tougher than those in the trade agreement with Israel. Officials in Jerusalem fear that one day they will find themselves facing faits accomplis.

IDF To Seek More Funds for Redeployment

TA3001141794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 94 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, including General Staff major generals, two days ago leveled criticism at the Finance Ministry's decision to allocate only 250 million shekels for the IDF withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and its redeployment.

On 28 January, a discussion was held at the bureau of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, with all the officials dealing with the autonomy issue. The discussion was attended by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Uri Sagi, head of the Intelligence Branch; Maj. Gen. Shalom Hagay, head of the Logistics Branch; the commanders of the Southern and Central Commands; Israel Police officials; the head of the Shin Bet; and others. The discussion mainly dealt with the implications of the IDF redeployment, the autonomy, and the evacuation of Gaza and Jericho.

At the discussion, it became apparent that the Finance Ministry will give the IDF only 250 million shekels for the evacuation and another 100 million for the protection of the Jewish settlements, in addition to the IDF's annual budget.

According to a senior IDF source, the agreement was made between the Finance Ministry and the defense establishment, without the IDF's knowledge, and, according the agreement, the defense establishment will not ask for additional funds. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that the IDF claims that the overall budget required for the evacuation of the IDF from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and its subsequent redeployment is over 550 million shekels. [passage omitted]

It has further been learned that the IDF will insist on receiving additional funds for the redeployment beyond the 250 million shekels allocated.

The prime minister said that he understands the situation and that he will try to handle the matter.

Speaking at a meeting over the weekend—held at Bet Hahayal in Tel Aviv, and attended by Prime Minister Rabin, Chief of Staff Baraq, and all the IDF reserves officers ranking from brigadier general up to former chiefs of staff—Gen. Uri Sagi, head of the Intelligence Branch, said that an all-out war with the Arab countries is not expected in 1994, and that he expects the political process to continue.

Gen. Sagi also referred to the remarks made last week by Maj. Gen. 'Uzi Dayan, according to which a limited war is to be expected if the talks collapse. Sagi said that there are two evaluations. Dayan represented the Planning Branch's stand (an operational evaluation) and, according to the Intelligence Branch estimate, no war is expected in 1994.

This was the first time the IDF presented the senior reserves officers with its plans, debates, and political evaluation. [passage omitted]

Health Bill Withdrawn; Ramon May Resign 6 Feb

TA3101171794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] With a majority of Labor ministers against the Meretz ministers and Minister Hayim Ramon, the government today decided to withdraw the original national health insurance bill from the Knesset and return it for deliberations in the Knesset House Committee. At the request of Minister Amnon Rubinstein the government did not deal today with the two clauses that pertain to the Histadrut Labor Federation and the collection of taxes, but will do so in its next session.

Health Minister Hayim Ramon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that in view of the government's decision he is determined to resign and will submit his letter of resignation at the opening of the cabinet session next Sunday. Minister Ramon said that in his private meeting with the prime minister prior to the cabinet session he informed Rabin of his plans, and in his opinion there is no personal rift between Yitzhaq Rabin and himself.

Our correspondent notes that during the cabinet session sharp words were exchanged between some of the ministers and Ramon. Minister Tzur accused Ramon of being a spoiled boy. Ramon said in return that the ministers who went back on their support for the bill caused severe damage to the Labor Party.

In today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed great appreciation for Ramon's performance as health minister. He said the bill's amended version is not an expression of ideology, rather a necessary compromise between what is desirable and what is attainable. He emphasized, at the same time, that the bill retains its two most important principles: it covers all the citizens of Israel, and payment will be determined on the basis of salaries.

Health Reform Bill Compromise Approved

TA3001161994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The Labor Party convention approved by a large majority the ministers' compromise proposal on the national health reform bill after a tense debate in which Health Minister Ramon did not announce his resignation. The voting was conducted by a show of hands after convention chairman Minister David Liba'i called for a preliminary vote to halt the debate in order to conduct the final vote.

The convention was opened by Prime Minister Rabin, who explained the significance of the amendments required in the bill. The ministers' compromise proposal calls for returning the original bill to the government for amendments, after which it is to be submitted to the Knesset.

In his speech, Minister Hayim Ramon harshly criticized the compromise proposal for the national health reform bill, but contrary to expectations, he did not announce his resignation. In his speech Ramon reviewed the history of the bill and accused the party apparatus and officials of emptying the original bill of its content. Our correspondents Sheli Yehimovich and Shmu'el Tal note that Minister Ramon's speech was constantly disrupted until at times he could hardly speak. Ramon called on the convention to reject the compromise proposal.

Prime Minister Rabin reacted to Minister Ramon's criticism. He was followed by Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili. The debate ended with the vote, which approved the compromise proposal of the ministers against the wishes of Minister Ramon.

In a news conference held after the convention, Minister Ramon said he will submit his resignation when the amended bill is submitted to the Knesset.

One Arab Killed, Three Wounded Assembling Bomb

TA3001175394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] A resident of the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus was killed and three others were seriously wounded today as they were assembling an explosive device. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports that the device is believed to have accidentally exploded near the four men, killing one and wounding three.

Al-Majali Receives Lebanese Delegation

JN3101161594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office at the Prime Ministry today a delegation from the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, led by the ministry's secretary general, Zafir al-Hasan.

The delegation conveyed condolences from Lebanon—president, government, and people—on the martyrdom of late Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, the counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Lebanon, and Lebanon's condemnation of this ugly crime in which one of Jordan's sons was killed.

He emphasized that Lebanon is pursuing the perpetrators of the crime so that they will receive the toughest punishment, and said that Lebanon is ready to cooperate with Jordan in this field.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, acting minister of state for foreign affairs, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry secretary general, and the Lebanese ambassador to Jordan.

Dr. Abu-al-Ghanam received the Lebanese Foreign Ministry delegation, led by Zafir al-Hasan, in his office at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

Al-Hasan conveyed the condolences of the Lebanese Government and people to His Majesty King Husayn, and the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and to the martyr's family. He expressed the Lebanese Government's strong condemnation of this cowardly criminal action.

He stressed that the Lebanese Government will do all it can to arrest the perpetrators, and that it considers this incident a threat to Lebanon's security, stability, and safety.

Dr. Abu-al-Ghanam emphasized the importance of joint efforts in order to identify the criminals, saying this will be in the interest of sisterly Lebanon and will also deter crime.

He thanked the Lebanese Government for its condolences and sincere feelings toward the Jordanian people and the family of the deceased. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Offers Condolences on Death of Diplomat

JN3101192594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs received a condolence cable from Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic, on the martyrdom of Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, counselor to the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut.

In his cable, al-Shar' said: I send to you my sincere condolences on the death of Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah in a reprehensible crime. He added: I also offer my condolences to the al-Ma'ayitah family and ask God almighty to have mercy on the deceased and grant his family patience and comfort.

King Receives Call From Yemeni Vice President

JN0102065794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] His Majesty King Husayn last night received a telephone call from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council. They discussed the Jordanian efforts and good offices to enable the Yemeni brothers overcome their differences in accordance with what was agreed among the parties to the dialogue in the pledge and accord document. Jordan's support for Yemen's march of unity and democracy was affirmed.

Talks Delegate on Foreign Debt, Arab Boycott

JN0102114094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Feb 94 pp 1, 32

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Amman—Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, has affirmed that the current peace talks in Washington are focusing on the mechanism for the next stage of negotiations and the modes of action that will be followed by the subcommittees emanating from the bilateral talks.

In a telephone conversation with AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir explained that U.S. President Bill Clinton had promised His Majesty King Husayn to seriously study the possibility of reducing Jordan's debts to the United States and that this issue would be followed up through various key channels.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that this is one way to indirectly help Jordan, especially since the U.S. foreign aid is being reconsidered and even reduced, and this would therefore be the best way to help Jordan.

He added that the U.S. Administration has welcomed the idea of replacing sea searches by an international on-land inspection of the goods bound for Jordan through the Gulf of Aqaba. He noted that sea searches increase freight charges and reduce cargo sizes because of the need to leave space inside ships to carry out inspections.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir explained that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has shown clear interest in the proposals made by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-al-Salam al-Majali when they met last week. Those proposals call for easing Jordan's burdens resulting from the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah, facilitating the processing of Jordan's [import] applications and treating them like those of other countries harmed by the blockade imposed on Iraq, and reducing the excessive bureaucratic measures imposed on Jordan.

He said that the response of the British Lloyds Company to the proposal for on-land inspections rather than sea

searches has encouraged the U.S. Administration to accept such a compromise in order to ease Jordan's burdens resulting from the blockade on the Port of al-'Aqabah. He said this response has left a good and satisfactory impression among Americans.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir stressed Jordan's concern for unanimous Arab decisions, especially over the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel. He said the boycott issue depends on the Arab League, which has the final say in this regard. He said, however, that the secondary and third degree boycott can be studied and ways can be worked out to deal with this matter.

Government Seeks Retrial of Nationals in Kuwait

JN2901121494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Foreign Ministry is exerting intensified efforts with several Arab, Islamic and foreign countries as well as the Arab League and the U.N. urging them to mediate with the Kuwaiti authorities to review sentences issued against Jordanian nationals. Recently, the Foreign Ministry called the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council seeking their countries' mediation in the issue and calling for retrials of the Jordanians, most of them accused of "collaborating" with Iraq during its six-month occupation of Kuwait. The Foreign Ministry has also called several ambassadors of Arab states in Amman for the same purpose. It has also contacted Jordanian diplomatic missions in Arab and Islamic states a..d at international organisations to continue their efforts in this regard.

Paper: Time To 'Start Lifting' Iraq Sanctions

JN3101111094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 94 p 4

[Editorial: "How Far the Punishment"]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali took the right step in going straight to the U.N. Security Council Committee monitoring the application of sanctions against Iraq in a bid to highlight the Jordanian case at the United Nations headquarters. Jordanian losses due to the observance of the sanctions imposed on Baghdad in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis of 1991 have been carefully documented and conservatively put at $300 million annually. Numerous attempts have been made by Jordan to explain the extent of the hardships that our economy has sustained as a result of the application of these measures and to seek adequate compensation for them. It is no secret that industrial production in the country has been oriented with the Iraqi market in mind, in view of the geographic proximity and in order to maintain a trade balance commensurate with Jordan's dependence on the import of oil from Iraq.

All nations of the world which admit to having a stake in the stability and development of the Kingdom, whether for the promotion of the peace prospects in the Middle East or for the overall security of the region, have now an opportunity to translate this faith into action. This they could do by lifting the secondary "sanctions" that have been applied against Jordan and by ending their indiscriminate interference with sea shipping to and from al-'Aqabah. Jordanian imports and exports have been unduly and unnecessarily jeopardised because of routine inspection of freighters bound to the Jordanian Red Sea port. Costs to the economy attributable to such unacceptable practices have been staggering. Needless to say, this country can ill afford the additional costs to its imports and exports. Sea lines to Jordan have also been curtailed considerably, by up to 30 per cent, because ship owners cannot afford the unusual delays experienced by their ships en route to Jordan. The alternative Jordanian proposal to replace sea searches by on-land inspection by a neutral party is a lesser evil, even though such idea had been anathema to us until the recent past. In principle, the proposal is a threat to Jordan's sovereignty but it would work out as a temporary alternative.

As to the prime minister's other major concern—that Jordanian applications numbering already in the thousands, requesting U.N. authorisation to export certain food and medical products be processed on criteria basis rather than on the existing case-by-case method—is also a step in the right direction. There is no sense in spending precious time on the applications and working on the 15 members of the committee to discuss each and every request if the majority of requests fall under similar general category. The current method is simply not cost effective. A more rational way to deal with this issue could be found in the Jordanian proposal. Still, the central problem lies in neither dimension of the application of sanctions against Iraq. It is the question of the sanctions themselves that has to be reasked, especially after it was proven beyond a shadow of doubt that it is the Iraqi people who suffer most from them. Besides, Baghdad has enforced most if not all of the U.N. Security Council's resolutions imposed on it after the Gulf war. There is a good case to at least relax the sanctions and start lifting them on a gradual basis, commensurate with the extent of Iraqi adherence to the original U.N. resolutions.

Syria Seen as Main Target of Jordanian's Killing

PM0102153694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Feb 94 p15

[Khayrallah Khayrallah article: "Syria Was the Primary Target"]

[Text] Arab sensitivities should have receded, at least a little, now that the peace process in the region has entered a decisive phase that would not tolerate any mutual campaigns. To make hasty accusations against one Arab party or another after the assassination of the Jordanian diplomat in Beirut is to ignore the risks involved at this particular juncture. One cannot but understand the Jordanian position maintaining that the aim of the assassination of the diplomat was to strike at any bid for rapprochement between Amman and Damascus. Is any Arab party opposed to such rapprochement? The realistic answer is no.

Actually, it should be stressed that the incident which occurred in Beirut, the first of its kind in three years, was a severe blow to Lebanon and all of its government's attempts to prove to Arabs and foreigners that security prevails in Beirut and that they can return there. In terms of the aim it was meant to achieve, the incident is only comparable to the blowing up of the Phalangist headquarters on New Year's Eve. That was meant to be a clear message to whom it may concern that Beirut would not return to normal, that all the attempts to rebuild it would fail, and that it would remain hostage particularly to those who are thought to have allocated millions for its destruction and for making it what it is, a den of blackmail, as it was in the eighties. It is clear, however, that just as the Phalangist headquarters explosion did not stop the reconstruction process, there is nothing to indicate that the assassination of the Jordanian diplomat, serious as it is, will stop the government's march.

Even more important, the assassination appears to be aimed primarily at Syria which has, in recent weeks, taken a number of important steps culminating in the summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton in Geneva on 16 January. At that summit President al-Asad emphasized that peace is Syria's "strategic choice," and the United States confirmed its willingness to improve relations with Syria, which would pave the way for the elimination of its name from the list of states sponsoring terrorism. There can be no doubt that Syria's conduct in Lebanon will be one of the matters to be taken into consideration in the assessment of bilateral relations in accordance with a certain mechanism agreed by the foreign ministries of the two countries. That being the case, is it conceivable that the aim of the assassination was anything but to embarrass Syria and portray it as incapable of holding all the cards in the Lebanese game, and to show that the Lebanese question should also be discussed with other non-Syrian parties and outside the framework of the Lebanese Government?

It seems, therefore, that in the coming few days Syria will have to confirm that it has made its choice and that its decision is final. Helping the Lebanese Government identify the party which perpetrated that ugly crime would be the best confirmation of this, because Syria would not tolerate those who pursue a strategy different from its own, those whose strategy is in harmony with Israeli interests, especially the Israeli interest in keeping Beirut out of bounds for Arabs and foreigners.

Al-Hirawi Sends Message to King Husayn

NC3101205094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has sent a congratulatory cable to Liamine Zeroual on his assumption of power in Algeria, wishing him success. He also wished stability and prosperity for the fraternal Algerian people.

The president also cabled King Husayn of Jordan offering condolences on the assassination of al-Ma'ayitah, the charge d'affaires [title as heard] of the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut. He conveyed Lebanon's denunciation of violence and eagerness to reject any attempt to mar relations with Jordan. He noted that the competent security authorities have taken the appropriate measures to investigate the painful incident.

Information Minister on Clinton-al-Asad Summit

NC3001092094 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 28 Jan 94 p 24, 25

[Interview with Information Minister Muhammad Salman by AL-MUSAWWAR journalist Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] What is your view on Israel's recent proposal about a possible referendum before any withdrawal from the Golan, and on Rabin's stance on not making any territorial concessions in the Golan before consulting with the Israeli people?

[Salman] Israel has no right to hold a referendum on the Golan because it is Syrian territory. A referendum in such a case contravenes international law and the UN Charter regarding other countries' territories. There can be no referendum on the territories of other countries. The Golan was occupied by force and the Security Council passed Resolution 242 rejecting the occupation of others' land by force. There is an explicit provision to this effect. In addition, when Israel made a decision to annex the Golan and apply Israeli laws there, the United Nations swiftly rejected this and emphasized that the Golan was Syrian territory, that it must be returned to Syria, and that Israel must withdraw from it. Therefore, proposing the idea of holding a referendum on returning or refusing to return the Golan is like holding a referendum on whether the international law itself is correct or incorrect. Thus, holding a referendum totally contradicts international law and legitimacy. A referendum is invalid and absolutely inadmissible; otherwise, it would set a precedent that would prevent the existence of the United Nations. It might set an example for other countries of the world to reject Security Council resolutions and international law, making a referendum the judge on the legitimacy or illegitimacy of any resolution.

[Al-Sa'id] In the wake of the Geneva summit, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin said that President Clinton and not President al-Asad spoke about normalization of relations. Rabin stressed that President al-Asad did not explain what his concept of peace was.

[Salman] Israel, as we know, wants to blackmail any stance and wants to take before giving. Israel has not yet given anything. When Israel withdraws from the Golan, it is withdrawing from Syrian territory that will be returned to Syria. Israel is not giving anything, but the establishment of relations between countries is voluntary and subject to the will of this or that country and, consequently, to mutual confidence between countries. If there is no mutual confidence between individuals there can be no friendship. This definitely applies in international relations. President al-Asad on the Geneva forum and within the hearing of the whole world left no room for doubt that Syria and its leader declare that he is ready to sign a document of a comprehensive and fair peace in the region. This was so decisive a response to all those who attended this conference that President Clinton applauded it. Israel, however, has grown used to skirting issues and wants to foil and subvert the positive results of any meeting that binds it to withdraw from Arab territory.

[Al Sa'id] What are your views regarding security arrangements, which primarily concern Israel since fears about govern its motives and moves in the region?

[Salman] It is impossible for anyone to discuss conclusions before preludes nor to debate details before setting forth general principles. The basic issue in the peace process is Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories, but the security issue is one of the main clauses outlined in the Syrian document that was submitted in the sixth round of peace talks. President al-Asad reiterated this issue at the Geneva summit when he stressed the right of all countries of the region to live in peace. Regarding Israel's apprehensions about security, I maintain that Syria's and every Arab country's security is threatened by Israel. The outstanding threat to the Arab countries is by far more real than the threat to Israel's security.

[Al-Sa'id] The Geneva summit was successful, but Israel's reaction to it was lukewarm. It even voiced reservations about Syria's intentions. My question is: What is your opinion about the talks that are about to take place now?

[Salman] Quick reactions are always the loudest. By reacting to the results with such coldness, Israel gave the impression that it does not intend to work to make peace in this region, because it believes that peace does not serve its expansionist designs in the region. Thus, it believes that peace may put an end to the expansionist designs it had been dreaming of. Everybody knows that the founders of Israel always reiterated that Israel's borders extended from the Nile to the Euphrates. By accepting a just and comprehensive peace in the region, everyone will know the geographical boundaries he can live in. That is why Israel viewed these resolutions as halting its aggressive designs toward its neighbors. All these matters boil down to one thing; that is, that Israel must withdraw first. Before withdrawal, there can be no talk about any future idea or step. Thus, the details and moving to discuss these details entirely depends on the beginnings, which constitute the main principle; that is, the withdrawal. So it is absolutely inconceivable for us to talk about the nature of security or talks or how we will have to coexist in the future.

[Al-Sa'id] But did President al-Asad obtain guarantees from the United States at the Geneva summit confirming that Israel will withdraw from all the Golan?

[Salman] The initiative that United States has offered within the framework of the Madrid Conference and the rounds of talks that followed it is based on international legality, as represented by Resolutions 242 and 338, meaning full withdrawal. So when the negotiations are guaranteed by and based on international legality, as represented by Resolutions 242 and 338, this means that the United States is offering a guarantee that it will work according to these resolutions to achieve peace in this region. The United States is a permanent member of the Security Council and it has recognized these two resolutions. So by honoring the Security Council resolutions, it respects its participation in making these resolutions.

[Al-Sa'id] But Syria has no objection to security arrangements under which multinational forces, including U.S. troops, could be deployed, and through which some parts of the Golan could be disarmed?

[Salman] Syria will agree to any formula endorsed by the international institutions. The Security Council may authorize the United States to send U.S. troops as a guarantee to the region. If this happens, Syria will certainly respect this international will. Thus, all we want is to establish real peace and security in the region and not imagined security that could be violated at any time by Israel when it has the chance to do so.

[Al-Sa'id] It is said that Syria's support for the 10 Damascus-based Palestinian groups is one of the reasons behind accusing Syria of backing terrorism.

[Salman] We differentiate between national struggle and terrorism. These groups constitute a resistance force to liberate the territory occupied by Israel. Similarly, Hizballah is a Lebanese party fighting to liberate its territory. How can these groups be called terrorists? It is Israel that is killing people daily. A proof of this is the number of Palestinian dead and detained in the occupied territories despite the Gaza-Jericho agreement. As a matter of fact, the number of dead Palestinians and detainees has doubled since the agreement was signed. Israel has filled its jails with Palestinians who are struggling to liberate their land occupied by Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] Can the United States fulfill its promise of establishing a comprehensive peace, particularly since Israel is trying to put forward numerous pretexts to avoid withdrawal?

[Salman] This is what the United States has affirmed and is affirming every day and at every meeting between us and the United States. Through the Geneva summit and the U.S. delegations' visits to Syria and Syrian delegations's visits to the United States, we have considerable confidence because the U.S. Administration is serious about resolving this issue and establishing a fair and comprehensive peace in the region. Peace will serve the interests of all countries of the region and it represents a real interest for the United States in the region. Instead of having soldiers stationed in the region as foreign forces, the United States can do without this presence when the region is stable and secure. It can thus deal with the region as a friend instead of being viewed as a force interfering in the domestic affairs of the region.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you fear the possibility of Israel's resorting to holding early elections and of the Likud, which is more extremist than the Labor Party, taking power?

[Salman] We are confident that the Israeli rulers dream about peace in their own special way, a peace of hegemony and domination. If this does not materialize, they will not accept the establishment of peace in this region. Circumventing issues is a major characteristic of Israel's behavior. Thus we do not think that the Israeli side will agree to establish peace in this region. We expect that they will circumvent the Geneva summit resolutions in one way or another. Perhaps they will create a problem by dissolving the government or calling for new elections or a referendum. All signs indicate that they want to circumvent the outcome of the Geneva summit. The propaganda campaign against Syria, President al-Asad, and President Clinton in particular was one of Israel's attempts, backed by its massive media organs and the Zionist lobby, to prevent the convening of the Geneva summit and to pressure and intimidate Clinton about it.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your current view of the situation regarding the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Salman] I praised this agreement from the outset, but what President al-Asad said about this agreement proved to be true: Every paragraph in this agreement needs an agreement and every agreement in it requires negotiations. The issue is in a vicious circle. Israel evades and will continue to evade. Israel will not give because it has grown used to taking. We know the destiny of this agreement. It was born feeble and it is now in the intensive care unit.

[Al-Sa'id] Was there a sort of bargain over Lebanon in the Geneva summit—something like pulling the Syrian forces out of that country or disarming Hizballah in return for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan? Israel claims that organizations such as Hizballah threaten its security.

[Salman] There is a Security Council resolution relevant to Lebanon, namely, Resolution 425. It calls for an immediate Israeli withdrawal. Before the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, no organizations like Hizballah had borne arms. Thus, these organizations are struggling and offering sacrifices to liberate the south. If their raison d'etre is removed, there will certainly be no need for any fedayeen operations. Those organizations will find no need to carry weapons if the land is liberated. Now they are fighting to liberate their lands. When an Israeli is killed, he is killed in occupied Lebanese territory. Hizballah does not infiltrate deep into Israeli territory; it is fighting Israel on Lebanese territory. But through the terms it uses—terms like the security belt, which all of us are now repeating—Israel has managed to delude the world into thinking that it is living in fear, and that it is the victim that needed the belt to protect itself. But this belt is in occupied Lebanese territory and an integral part of Lebanon—south Lebanon. It is not a security belt, as Israel claims; it is Lebanese territory, and its inhabitants are carrying arms and struggling to liberate the land occupied by Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] Although President Clinton spoke about the need for qualitative relations with Syria, the world was surprised at the U.S. State Department announcement after the summit that Syria will not be struck off the list of states sponsoring terrorism.

[Salman] We are not totally taken aback by this; this is not surprising. Had the United States—and I mean the U.S. Administration in particular—been convinced that Syria was a terrorist country, the Geneva summit would not have taken place, and the exchange of visits by Syrian and U.S. delegations world not have continued. Many U.S. Congress and Administration officials come to meet the

president. Syria was unfairly accused of terrorism thanks to the influence of the Zionist lobby in the United States. Had it not been for the influence of the Israeli and Zionist lobby in the United States, which put pressure on the U.S. Congress and Administration, the [terrorism] decision would not have been made. As regards daily interaction, the United States and Syria do not deal with each other on the basis that Syria is a terrorist country. It is enough to say that to date, neither Israel, nor the Zionist lobby in the world, nor anyone in the U.S. Administration itself could provide a single piece of evidence that Syria carried out or was involved in any terrorist act, either at a state or at an individual level.

Press Reaffirms Commitment to Middle East Peace

JN3001082394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Jan 94

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the Middle East peace talks, noting that Syria has always taken the lead in efforts to promote peace in the region. It has done its utmost to nurture the peace process and ensure the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions in a manner that would guarantee the restoration of all Arab territories and rights to their rightful owners.

The paper adds: The ball is now in the Israeli court. For the future of the peace process, as well as the future of security and stability in the region hinge upon the moves the Rabin government might make. Hence, this government must declare its clear and open commitment to the bases and terms of reference enshrined in international legitimacy resolutions to help achieve a true and durable peace.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: But, if Israel resorts to its old well-known tactics, then the international community must shoulder its responsibilities and perform its role of curbing Israeli belligerence and removing all the difficulties obstructing the peace talks. This is essential if this community really wants this region to enjoy security and peace.

The newspaper TISHRIN affirms Syria's commitment to the requirements of achieving just and comprehensive peace, arguing that partial settlements and separate deals will neither achieve peace, nor ensure security, as the course of events has shown, particularly in the aftermath of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord. As a matter of fact, they have only exacerbated the regional situation and derailed the peace process, the paper notes.

TISHRIN adds: Syria has explained its positions, which advocate the attainment of just and comprehensive peace, with all clarity during the Geneva summit. Consequently, it has affirmed that the party that is promoting comprehensive peace is the very party that is eager to see the region enjoy stability, the party that is committed to the components of comprehensive peace. As for the U.S. peace initiative, which is grounded in the principle of trading land for peace; the relevant UN Security Council resolutions; and the concept of comprehensive, just, durable, and true peace, they should not be looked at as useless instruments. As a matter of fact, these instruments reflect concrete positions that should shape the peace to be achieved. Syria has underscored all this when it upheld the concept of full withdrawal in return for full peace, and spelled out its objectives, as explained in the document it submitted to the Israeli negotiators during the sixth round of the Washington bilateral talks. This document has continued until this moment to constitute a true and objective basis for just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: Syria, which is eager to achieve peace and working to attain it, has reiterated that just and comprehensive peace is its strategic option. Hence, it has become extremely necessary and important for the peace process to achieve its objectives. It has become extremely necessary for it to make positive and constructive progress, which is contingent, first and foremost, upon Israeli acceptance of complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, Israeli commitment to the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and Israeli subscription to the principle of trading land for peace.

Return of Golan Termed 'Basic Condition' for Peace

JN3001152194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Israeli prime minister has admitted that peace with Syria is very important and that the Syrian track is the most important track. This runs counter to what he said just a few months ago in the wake of the signing of the Oslo agreement amidst all the media clamor.

Despite the fact that the Israeli prime minister has always sought to hit one track with another and fabricate contradictions among the Arab parties involved in the peace process, and despite the fact that he managed to take on the Palestinian party separately, all of the subsequent developments and the stumbling of the Oslo agreement brought to the forefront the facts of the established, just solution in the Middle East. Israel had to acknowledge Syria's central role in the peace process. The Geneva summit came to consecrate this role and to confirm the bases and facts of the desired peace in the region.

Thus, when Rabin acknowledges the importance of peace with Syria, he is in fact acquiescing to the facts of the conflict. Rabin's statements should have reflected decisively on the talks currently being held in Washington on the level of heads of delegations. Despite the relatively practical atmosphere in these talks, the Israeli negotiating team has not yet given a satisfactory answer on Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights—a withdrawal which Syria expects in return for peace in the region. Rabin returned to his tune on holding a plebiscite for the Israelis on withdrawal from the Golan Heights and on what he termed peace with Syria after reaching a draft

Syrian-Israeli agreement. Rabin thinks he is authorized to sign agreements on the other tracks, but not the Syrian one, and justifies this by saying the Golan Height are strategically important and that the Israelis are suspicious of the Syrians.

The fact is that the Israeli prime minister is contradicting himself. He uses a plebiscite as an excuse for extortion against Syria and to deflect it away from the demand of the just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Peace is the most important guarantee for security and there is no area of special strategic importance for any region in the world in the age of missiles and aircraft. Syria, as the world acknowledges, has always been faithful to what it says. President al-Asad expressed Syria's firm, principled stand in his well known statement "we fight in honor, and we make peace in honor." Geographic expansion did not, and will not, guarantee security for Israel. That expansion will only be a tool to ignite wars in the region in the future. Syria has offered a just and comprehensive peace, a peace with no occupation, one that will lead to stable conditions in the Middle East in return for regaining the occupied territories.

If peace with Syria is a basic element, as Israel's leaders acknowledge, and the key to peace in the Middle East, then peace is now at hand. It only requires a positive Israeli response to the UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of international law by ending its occupation of the Arab territories, recognizing the rights of the Palestinians, and getting involved in the crucible of the just and comprehensive peace.

We do not believe that any two people in the world will dispute the fact that returning the entire Golan Heights is a basic condition for peace with Syria. Throughout the long years of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Syria has never relinquished, and will never relinquish, an inch of land or a single right. Nor will it ever yield to the Israeli extortion.

Thus, Rabin is playing the plebiscite game in the wrong place. The Golan Heights have been Syrian territory since time immemorial. This fact cannot be changed by a thousand Israeli plebiscites. Syria in the past ignored the [Israeli] annexation of the Golan Heights. Equally, Syria will not give any weight to these threats. The Israeli prime minister should instead instruct his negotiating team in Washington to address the substantial issues and approve the return of the entire Golan Heights to Syria because this is a basic condition for any progress in the talks. When Syria sets the condition of returning all the occupied territories in return for peace, it is showing respect, in letter and spirit, to the UN Security Council resolutions, the principles of international law, and the UN Charter. The Israeli occupation, which continues to date, is a flagrant infringement on these resolutions, principles, and charter and constitutes a defiance of the entire world community. Israel's submission to international law will mark the beginning of the road to the established of a lasting peace in the Middle East that will benefit every state in the region.

Afghanistan

Opposition Jets Reported Downed North of Kabul

LD3001171894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Two jet aircraft belonging to the Dostam militia, which were bombarding residential areas in Kabul, were shot down by [words indistinct] jets of the Air Force of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Military sources [words indistinct] that the aircraft which were flying over Kabul city residential areas [words indistinct] were pursued by Hunter MiG aircraft of the heroic pilots of the country's Air Force and were downed one after the other. One enemy aircraft, piloted by General Rafiq, was shot down by a Hunter aircraft in Charikar airspace [80 km north of Kabul]. Gen. Rafiq, the pilot of the aircraft, was captured.

The second aircraft, which was a SU-22 type and was bombarding residential areas in Kabul city, was pursued by a MiG aircraft of the ISA air force. It was brought down over southern Salang area [100 km north of Kabul] and it was burned down along with its pilot.

Confirming the downing of the aircraft, the BIA agency has mentioned the name of the SU-22, Gholam Mostafa.

It is worth mentioning that seven aircraft belonging to [words indistinct] of militia have been (?shot down) previously [words indistinct].

According to another report today too the infamous militia of Golboddin and Dostam subjected residential and economic areas of Kabul city to missile attacks.

A source from the general command of Kabul garrison said that the Golboddin-Dostam militia fired six Sakr missiles [words indistinct] as a result of which [words indistinct] of our compatriots were martyred and [word indistinct] were wounded. In addition to the loss of life, the missile attack has inflicted material losses as well. Among the losses were: four shops in Jada-e Maywand were set on fire and a number of [words indistinct] were destroyed.

Army Attacks Militia Centers

LD3101210694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Air Force and artillery forces of the Islamic army launched aerial attacks today on the assembly centers of the notorious Golboddin-Dostam militia. As a result, a large number of militia troops were killed.

A responsible source of the Ministry of National Defense told a BIA military correspondent that jets of the Islamic army bombed enemy assembly centers in Maranjan Tapa and around Chelstoon, as a result of which heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

The spokesman added that Dostam-Golboddin militia embarked upon a series of movements and military transportation in the frontline battle zone, which were pushed back as a result of the activity of the Islamic army units. Their dead were left behind on the battlefield, and a number of their positions have been seized by the Islamic army.

A spokesman for the Kabul Garrison General Command said that the Golboddin-Dostam militia today fired 464 missiles at Kabul city residential areas. As a result of these savage missile attacks, a number of innocent Kabul citizens were martyred and wounded.

Fighting Spreads South of Kabul

BK3101085894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] A convoy of seven trucks carrying 1,250 tents left Peshawar this morning for Jalalalbad. These tents have been sent by the World Food Program with the cooperation of Pakistan for distribution among the Afghan war affectees.

Reports from Afghanistan speak of fresh fierce fighting between the rival warring factions in (Chehalstun) and Gazergah area of Kabul. The AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS reported from Kabul that the antigovernment forces used heavy shelling and rocket fire against government strongholds in southern parts of the city. The television mountain also came under heavy fire. In retaliation, the air force of the state Defense Ministry bombed the Dostam militia positions in Bala Hesar and (Tappa Maranjan). Afghan sources told Radio Pakistan's Peshawar representative that this is for the first time in the month-long war that the fighting has spread south of Kabul.

Delegation Cited on Rabbani, Hekmatyar Resignations

BK3001112794 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 30 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] The Afghan prime minister. Eng. Golboddin Hekmatyar, has intensified the last week launched diplomatic offensive against president Prof Borhanoddin Rabbani and his close associate commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

A four-member delegation of the Supreme Coordination Council arrived in Islamabad last week to meet the foreign minister and other concerned officials. The Council consists of Hezb-e Eslami, Junbish-e Milli, Hezb-e Wahdat and Afghan National Liberation Front.

The delegation members were Abdol Hadi Arghandiwal, Hashmatollah Mujadadi, Dr Talib and Abdol Samad. During their meeting with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali, the delegation maintained that fighting in Kabul would continue until President Rabbani resigned from his office to pave the way for establishment of a broadbased interim government in the Afghan capital of Kabul. They said Golboddin Hekmatyar was also willing to resign from the office of prime minister. The Council is also demanding holding of general elections in the country within six months to elect the future government of Afghanistan. The setting up of a national army is also one of the Council's demands which links its four-point plan to restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

The Council is also ready to surrender all of their arms to the Ministry of Defence of the new government.

A reliable source told THE FRONTIER POST on Saturday that the delegation would also be visiting Iran and Saudi Arabia soon to win diplomatic support of these two countries to their peace plan.

Rabbani Discusses Situation With Elders, Politicians

LD3101181794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Presidency Press Department reported to the BIA that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani met this morning with a number of the country's cultural and political personalities. At the meeting a few verses from the Holy Koran were recited by esteemed Mawlana Walajan Wasiq, the deputy minister for publication of the Information and Culture Ministry. The esteemed president of our country then spoke in detail about the political and military situation in the country.

A number of the participating personalities, among them esteemed Mawlawi Arsalan Rahmani, the deputy prime minister and the minister of guidance and endowment; esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Walmoslemin Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid, the minister of planning; and esteemed Dr. Abdol Elahi, minister counsellor, then [words indistinct]. Then during the course of a comprehensive discussion concerning various drafts, which had been presented to the meeting about the solution of the country's problem, it was decided that such discussions and talks will continue.

India

Minister Tours Kashmir Areas as Rao Reviews Situation

BK2901091094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The prime minister held an urgent meeting with the home minister in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. S.B. Chavan, who was in Chandigarh, rushed to Delhi for the talks. Agency reports say that the law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley figured prominently in their talks. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, and several senior officials of the Home Ministry were present at the meeting. The prime minister is understood to have given some new directions to deal with the situation.

Later, Mr. Chavan left for Jammu where he has held detailed discussions with the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The governor apprised him of the steps initiated to achieve the objective of bringing normalcy and an elected government in the state. Mr. Chavan also had a meeting with the four advisers to the governor and the state chief secretary. The home minister will address senior officials of the state government today and also take stock of the implementation of development schemes. He is to visit some of the migrants' camps in Jammu. Mr. Chavan will visit Doda and Kishtwar tomorrow for an on-the-spot study of the situation.

Chavan Stresses Ending Militancy

BK2901102094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, the curfew in Kupwara town has been relaxed for four hours from 1000 this morning following an improvement in the situation. The curfew was imposed on Thursday evening following violent incidents resulting in the death of 18 persons, including three policemen. The state government has already ordered an inquiry into the incident. Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of those killed has also been announced.

The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, says the first priority with the central government is to end militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a rally in Jammu today, he appealed to all political parties to shed their individual differences and join hands to help restore normalcy in the state. He said once militancy is contained, the state can go in for elections.

Mr. Chavan said Jammu, Ladakh, and Kashmir will remain integral parts of Jammu and Kashmir as much as the state remains an integral part of India. Mr. Chavan said Pakistan's efforts to divide people in the name of religion and incite militancy will never succeed. He said a new thinking has already emerged among the masses who are fed up with the activities of the militants. He assured the people that all necessary security will be provided for those who work in the valley.

Speaking on the occasion, the pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar, suggested that a political adviser be appointed in Jammu and Kashmir State. A check of 125,000 rupees was presented on behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress-I Committee to Mr. Chavan for the victims of the Maharashtra earthquake. Mr. Chavan is scheduled to visit some camps of Kashmir migrants near Jammu this afternoon.

Chavan Criticizes Pakistan

BK3001160694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that Pakistan has no moral right to raise the issue of alleged human rights violations in Kashmir, because Islamabad is mainly responsible for creating the present problem in the valley. Addressing a news conference in Jammu this afternoon, he said the recent call by Pakistan for a general strike is another proof of its support to the militants. The home minister said that Pakistan totally forgets that the worst kind of human rights violations have been perpetrated by its forces in its own province of Sindh and other areas. Mr. Chavan said that steps have been taken to counter the Pakistani disinformation campaign on the issue. Nonofficial organizations from India will be visiting different countries to put the record straight, he said. The home minister said that the Army has ordered an inquiry into the

recent incident at Kupwara. Its findings will be made public. Replying to questions, Mr. Chavan said the government does not propose to appoint political advisers in Jammu and Kashmir. He said elections will be held in the state at an appropriate time. Government is prepared to hold negotiations with any group in the valley which is willing to discuss the matter within the framework of the constitution and is prepared to give up violence. Mr. Chavan said he has had discussions with different political parties separately adding that he may call a joint meeting of all parties on this issue.

The home minister today completed a three-day tour of Jammu, Doda, Kishtwar. During his visit, he met a large number of people and leaders of political parties. He said the people have appreciated the induction of additional security forces in the area where some foreign mercenaries have also become active. Mr. Chavan also reviewed during his tour the financial problems of Jammu and Kashmir at meetings with the state governor and senior officials.

Shots Fired at Chavan's Helicopter

BK3101031894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The union home minister has underlined the need for initiating a vigorous political process in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. S.B. Chavan was talking to newsmen in Jammu at the end of a three-day tour of Jammu, Doda and Kishtwar. Asked about holding elections in the state, he said the possibility of the state going to the polls in the near future cannot be ruled out, but there is no timeframe for it, he added. In a reply to another question, the home minister said the Center has no package for initiating the political process in the state. Mr. Chavan said Kashmir is a national issue and no party should take advantage of it.

The monthly cash relief for the Kashmiri migrants has been increased by 50 percent. The relief per family will now be 1,500 rupees instead of 1,000 rupees. This was announced by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in Jammu.

Agency reports from Jammu say militants opened fire when the helicopter of the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, was landing at Doda yesterday. The reports quoting official sources say the militants fired from a hilltop at (Deoli) about 3 km from Doda. The security forces returned the fire silencing the guns of the militants. The militants could not cause any damage as they fired the shots from quite a distance.

The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says the government will not allow agencies like the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan to succeed in their evil designs. Addressing a rally in Gandhinagar yesterday, he said Pakistan is interfering in our internal affairs and it does not want the law and order situation to improve in the Kashmir valley. The minister made it clear that tough action will be taken against the forces which are bent upon breaking the unity of the country.

Spokesman Denies Shooting Report

BK3101150994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] An official spokesman today strongly refuted press reports that the union home minister's helicopter was fired at during his visit to Doda yesterday. The spokesman said that no such incident concerning the home minister's helicopter took place during his visit to Doda and Kishtwar yesterday. However, militants fired a few rounds from a very distant place from Doda town, which were not aimed at the helicopter or any particular object. Moreover, the home minister's helicopter landed much later than this random firing.

Pakistani Troops Fire Rockets at Punch District

BK2901084094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistani troops again fired six rockets from across the border in Mendhar Sector of Punch District in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. No damage is reported. According to official sources, Pakistani troops have been firing rockets on the Indian side without any provocation for the last four days.

The president of the All-India Youth Congress-I, Mr. Maninderjit Singh Bitta, has said that Youth Congress-I activists will demonstrate near the Indo-Pakistan border at Atari on the fifth of next month. Addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, he said this is to rebuff the three-day strike call given by Pakistan Premier Ms. Benazir Bhutto in that country on the Kashmir issue.

Missiles Injure 16 Civilians

BK0102033294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] An official spokesman has said in Jammu that Pakistan troops have fired about 36 rockets so far from across the border. At least 16 civilians, including three school children, were injured in (Digwar) village in Punch District. The spokesman said Pakistan's denial of firing rockets in the Punch and Rajauri sectors is another attempt to perpetuate falsehood and cover up its provocative actions and nefarious designs.

Rapid Action Force Deployed in Kanpur After Violence

BK2901090094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound areas of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh is under control. The state inspector general of police told our Kanpur correspondent that there has been no report of any untoward incident since last evening. The Anwarganj police station in charge has been suspended. CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and Rapid Action Force jawans [soldiers] have been deployed in the curfew-bound areas. No arrest has so far been made in connection with yesterday's violent incidents. As reported, eight people were injured in these incidents in

Anwarganj area and curfew was imposed in the entire area between Mulganj crossing to Bansmandi.

Bomb Blast at New Delhi Cinema Injures 16

BK3001144094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1434 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] A crude bomb exploded in a cinema hall in the capital this evening. Sixteen persons were injured. Police said the bomb was hidden under a seat in the theater. The injured have been admitted to the hospital.

Srinivasan Succeeds Dixit as Foreign Secretary

BK3101162994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Mr. K.N. Srinivasan is the new foreign secretary. He succeeds Mr. J.N. Dixit, who retired today. Mr. Srinivasan was until now secretary, west, in the External Affairs Ministry.

Antitank Missile Passes Flight Test

BK3101125694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The most modern antitank missile, Nag [Cobra], has been successfully flight tested. Developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO, it is a third-generation missile with a range of 4 km and is capable of destroying armor. A Defense Ministry release in New Delhi says four test-flights of Nag were successfully conducted for two days on Saturday and Sunday. A missile carrier truck vehicle was used for carrying out these tests. India is one of the three countries which are developing this class of advanced missiles.

Official Admits Ability To Produce Enriched Uranium

BK2801143294 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Jan 94 p 5

[UNITED NEWS OF INDIA report]

[Text] Bombay, Jan. 21—The Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) will switch over to indigenously developed mixed oxide fuel (MOX) in a phased manner from its next refuelling stage in February, shedding its dependence on imported enriched uranium for power generation, Nuclear Power Corporation managing director S.K. Chatterjee said on Thursday.

Mr. Chatterjee told news persons that this would be the first experiment of partly using the indigenous fuel to operate the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant in view of the uncertainty about renewal of supply of enriched uranium from France under the India-U.S.- France tripartite agreement which ended in October.

He said that to begin with, two bundles of mixed oxide fuel along uranium stock from the previous contract was over, would start using a mix of low-enriched uranium and MOX at the TAPS.

Mr. Chatterjee said "We are [as published] no fuel problem till the end of 2,000 AD."

However, he said the options for procuring enriched uranium would continue to be explored. "We would buy it from whosoever was willing to give it to us," he said while asserting that "enriched uranium or no enriched uranium, we have to, and will run TAPS and have uninterrupted power generation".

Mr. Chatterjee said the Atomic Energy Commission chairman had already said that India had the capacity to run the two units of TAPS project—one indigenously—and also had the capability to produce enriched uranium.

Indian scientists had fully perfected the art of producing MOX and using it as a substitute to enriched uranium for operation TAPS.

Mr. Chatterjee said TAPS would complete successful operation of 25 years on April 1, 1994 and enter into the 26th year. "We will run it for another 14 years."

He said the safety assessment for renewal of operations had already been completed by SARRA [expansion unknown] after inspection.

Iran

Gunshots Interrupt Revolution Anniversary Ceremonies

Shots Fired During President's Speech

LD0102091794 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Few bullets were shot during the ten-day dawn ceremonies held at the shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic the late Imam Khomeyni Tuesday [1 February] morning. The shots were heard from the western corner of the shrine while President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was delivering a speech.

The ceremonies, attended by tens of thousands of participants, including foreign guests, were held at the beginning of the ten-day dawn ceremonies, marking the arrival to the country of the late Imam Khomeyni after a 15-year exile in 1979.

An unidentified person, standing 150 meters away from the western gate of the shrine, shot a few bullets into the air and was later seized by the crowd and handed over to the Law Enforcement Forces. Major Reza Mohammad-Doust, a law enforcement officer, told IRNA that interrogation started immediately after the arrest and in the body search that ensued a number of forged student, police and press cards were found on the assailant.

The incident took place on the first day of the ten-day dawn ceremonies, marking the 15th anniversary of the 1979 victory of the Islamic revolution.

The shots did not disturb the ceremonies and the large crowd of people, after chanting "death to munafiq" (munafiq, means "hypocrite" a reference to the members

of the Iraqi-sponsored terrorist Mojahedeen Khalq outfit) and "Hashemi, Hashemi you are the apple of our eyes", calmed down and continued listening to the rest of President Rafsanjani's speech.

Gunman Disarmed by Crowd

LD0102123294 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—People who packed the shrine of Imam Khomeyni to celebrate the 15th anniversary of his return to Iran disarmed a man immediately after he pulled out a pistol and opened fire during a speech by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, according to a police officer.

"As soon as the man pulled out the pistol, the crowd rushed towards him and pushed the pistol barrel towards the air as a result of which four bullets were fired which hit the ceiling of the shrine," Major Mohammad Panahi said.

The incident took place when President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was addressing a large crowd of people on the occasion of the beginning of the ten-day-dawn celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. After being disarmed, the man was dragged out of the shrine and handed over to Law Enforcement Forces.

The officer, who is in charge of providing security for the revolution victory celebrations at the shrine of Imam Khomeyni, lauded the people for their quick reaction and vigilance. "In fact, the Iranian people are the main protectors of the Islamic revolution and republic," the officer said.

After the shooting incident, the crowd chanted "Death to the U.S," and "Death to Hypocrites" a term used for members of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq organization.

Gunman Meant Only To 'Spoil' Celebrations

LD0102141594 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—A man who shot five bullets in the air in a ceremony at the shrine of the late Imam Khomeyni this morning said at the initial interrogation that he did not mean to make an attempt against the life of any specific person.

The 26-year-old Kourosh said "his real aim was to overshadow the joy of people at the start of the 'ten-day-dawn' ceremonies," which marks the 15th anniversay of the victory of the Islamic revolution.

He fired five bullets into the air while President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was addressing a large gathering of people, among them foreign guests.

He was immdiately disarmed by the crowd and handed over to the law enforcement forces.

Major Panahi, a law enforcement commander for southern Tehran, told IRNA today that the person under arrest carried a revolver, from which the bullets were fired. The handgun is a U.S.-made low-caliber revolver, he added.

Major Panahi quoted the culprit as saying "he did not plan to assassinate any specific person. Rather, he meant to terrorize people and spoil the celebrations."

President Comments on Shooting Incident

LD0102111494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Our correspondent contacted President Hashemi-Rafsanjani a few moments ago via telephone. About the Iranian Muslim people's concern in the wake of the [shooting] incident, the president said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] I am very grateful to the people and to you for taking measures to reassure the people so that they do not worry. In my opinion there is nothing to worry about. If the exact proceedings of the incident at that place [Khomeyni's shrine] were broadcast, the people would not worry.

As the reporters present saw, the point from which the shot was fired was a long way away from the platform. I first thought a light bulb had exploded, but when I heard several more sounds it became clear, and I came to the conclusion that it was not a light bulb but gunfire. In my opinion there is no cause for concern at all. It was an incident in the corner of a huge gathering in the mosque. The proceedings of the meeting were not interrupted either. I am not certain whether it was being broadcast live or not. Everything continued as normal.

I am very grateful to everyone for demonstrating such kindness. I ask you to inform the people somehow that there is no cause for concern at all and no one should worry. [end recording]

President's Anniversary Message Issued

LD0102085594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0604 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Message issued by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 1 February marking the start of Islamic revolution anniversary celebrations—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This moment is an historic and a very important occasion in our country's history. Our people do not forget those highly exciting days, when the nation was impatiently awaiting the return of the imam [Khomeyni] after years of exile and separation from the homeland. The enemies of our nation and agents of arrogance inside the country, who enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle, were concerned that with the imam's return their days of plundering and corruption would end. This moment coincides precisely with the moment when the imam landed at the airport.

The government of the day had concentrated all its efforts on preventing the imam's arrival. On the other hand all the combative forces inside the country had concentrated all their efforts on realizing their old aspiration. The moment

was highly exciting when the people found out that the imam's plane had come through various dangers to land safely at Mehrabad Airport. I think our artists and those talented in poetry and culture should draw suitable pictures to mark the occasion. The arrival of the new year is usually an exciting moment for our nation. Certainly the effects of this moment in our history are greater than those moments before the new year, so we have created certain ceremonies.

Let us look at the time before that moment and the period after it. If we look at the era before [Khomeyni's arrival], we see the rule of satan, the country's dependency, the presence of foreign advisers in Iran, abjectness, captivity, corruption, unrestrained behavior, the rule of aristocracy, and so on. Whereas on this side, we see the rule of God, rule by the people, the people's presence in the arena, independence, freedom, Islam, the Koran, improvement, piety and, in a word, the path of God.

It seems that our new generation should be made more familiar with the facts relating to both chapters of the country's history—much more than what we have explained to them so far. These two chapters are: the era before the Imam's arrival and the chapter after that moment.

Our nation remembers that from the moment the imam stepped out of the plane, everything changed shape. Hopes gained much greater strength. The fear of the revolution's opponents intensified immensely, and the wheels of history rotated at a faster rate. The pages of history were turning so fast that no on could read the lines of history or even glance at them. After only a few days the foundations of monarchist tyranny collapsed and the foundations of the Islamic government, the popular government, were laid down.

May this occasion be a blessed occasion to our nation and may these historic moments remain honored in our history for ever.

Revolution's Achievements Stressed

LD0102114394 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurated the ceremonies marking the 15th anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution held in Imam Khomeyni's shrine in southern Tehran Tuesday [1 February].

Addressing a huge gathering of people and ranking state and military officials at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, the president said that the massive presence of the people in all scenes of the Islamic revolution thwarted conspiracies of the enemies of Islam.

He said that the leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni and massive presence of the people were key factors in materialization of the revolution. The Islamic ummah must cherish these factors which resulted in the victory and grandeur of the Islamic society, Rafsanjani stressed.

"Velayat-e Faqih (office of the religious jurisprudent) is the main motive in treading on our present path," said the president.

He noted that the important factor in the post-revolution era was to protect achievements of the Islamic revolution. These achievements have been preserved despite eight years of the Iraqi-imposed war and propaganda ploys of the enemies of Islam. At the meantime, he continued major steps have been taken towards achievement of independence, freedom and progress.

Khamene'i Attends Celebrations

LD0102111394 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Tuesday [1 February] attended the shrine of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni to mark the beginning of the ten-day dawn (February 1-11) ceremonies.

The ceremonies are held on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

After attending the shrine of the late Imam Khomeyni, the leader visited the martyrs quarter of Behesht-e Zahra cemetery and paid homage to the martyrs of the revolution and those of the imposed war.

Khomeyni Speaks, Supports Fundamentalists

LD0102122994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni spoke today at the ceremonies marking the anniversary of imam's return. In his speech Ahmad Khomeyni describes exceptional virtues of the late imam. He said: What distinguishes the imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, from others, was his sincerity. From the first day of the struggle, his eminence imam used to speak to the people sincerely; there was never a gap between the people and the imam.

About the sincere and decisive approach of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Imam Khomeyni] vis-a-vis state problems and difficulties during his life, Ahmad Khomeyni said: Fifteen years after the Islamic revolution victory, this revolution is still subjected to onslaught of the aliens. Our responsible authorities, including the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], the president, and other officials, continue the path wished by the late Imam.

In another part of his remarks, referring to the revolutionary and Islamic movements all over the world, he said: The enemies accuse the Muslims of being fundamentalists. If following the instructions of Islam's prophet is interpreted as fundamentalism, then the Muslims are proud of this.

Defense of Khomeyni's Aspirations Urged

LD0102124294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Reports received about the special ceremonies marking the Ten Days of Dawn state that a few hours before the start of the ceremonies, different strata of the population, religious and political figures, and foreign guests of the occasion, gathered at the immaculate shrine of the departed Imam, to honor the memories of this blessed day and to renew allegiance with the aspirations of the great Khomeyni.

At the splendid ceremonies, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the course of remarks, described the reasons for the victory of the revolution and the survival of the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also spoke about the special characteristics of Imam Khomeyni.

Our correspondent Ruhani-Nezhad reports on the president's speech at these ceremonies.

[Ruhani-Nezhad] In his speech Hashemi-Rafsanjani honored the memory of his eminence, the imam [Khomeyni]—may his soul be admitted to paradise—the founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and praised the epic-makings and self-sacrifices of Iran's revolutionary people. He described the Ten Days of Dawn as the real feast of Iran's Muslim nation and all the deprived Muslims of the world. He said: During the blessed Ten Days of Dawn, the Almighty's blessings and favors were displayed in a manner never before seen during the length of our history, in all their glory and greatness. The president pointed to the factors making for the victory of this great development during the current century and noted that the life-giving Islamic doctrine and the important principle of the velayat-e faqih and leadership were the most important factors in achieving victory. He said: With the passing of incidents, events, and the trend of the Islamic Revolution, this fact has been proven that motivation by a doctrine, people's belief in Islam, and society's full confidence and trust in the leadership, not only led this great movement to victory but also played an important role in its preservation, survival, and continuation until today.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The destiny-making and important events following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, that is, the imposed war, the economic boycott and many other plots, each of which could have left an impact on the Revolution's direction, were all foiled and rendered ineffective, thanks to the virtuous leadership of his holiness the imam—may his soul be admitted to paradise—and the rational measures of his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, respected leader of the Islamic Revolution, and the extensive and enthusiastic presence of the people on all the arenas of the Revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: In order to strengthen and stabilize the Islamic system all the more and to strengthen economic development and completely cut our ties of dependence, we should fully follow the eminent leader of the revolution and be present on the scene to defend the aspirations and valuable heritage that was passed down to us by his holiness the imam.

Clinton's Address to Congress, U.S. Violence Viewed

NC0102082194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1755 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] In his annual address to Congress, U.S. President Bill Clinton finally admitted that crime and lack of security are at the head of American society's problems. Reacting to strong congressional criticism of the growing crime and violence crisis in the United States, Clinton pointed out that a bill to add 100,000 policemen to confront violence and crime has been approved. But he did not make any promises on this force's capability to curb the growth in everyday crime.

Earlier, unprecedented congressional efforts to convince the government to adopt measures to prevent crime and address the lack of security indicate that American society needs serious efforts, now more than ever, to fight crime. The growing crime rate, lack of security, and improper conduct have drawn the public's attention to this national crisis. THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote that Americans today are vulnerable to murders, beatings, assaults, robberies, and other frightful crimes and that no place is safe from crime and assaults. The paper remarked that the more dreadful reality is too hard to follow up or report.

Statistics published by different American organizations and institutions indicate that there is a national catastrophe. According to a report by the American Child Protection Society, the United States went through its most violent period between 1978 and 1991 because of growing crime. A total of 150,000 persons under 20 years of age were killed with firearms during that period. Studies by health authorities also indicate that murders exceed road accidents; the number of people killed with weapons in the past 22 years is much higher than those killed in road accidents. In other words, murders increased by 60 percent between 1968 and 1991, while the number of people killed in road accidents dropped by 21 percent during the same period. Murder with various weapons will become the number one killer in nine years, by the year 2003.

Therefore, the media are urging religious leaders, academics, civil and social rights leaders, and ordinary citizens, particularly parents, to find ways to confront this national crisis. Sociologists believe that the American people are today experiencing an identity crisis because the prevailing social system has destroyed American humanitarian and ethical values. This lack of identity is due to the fact that the American people suffer from a sense of loss and feel that they are living in a world of carelessness, dreadful ignorance, and fear.

The growing violence and the resulting social crisis in America indicate that by adopting the wrong policies, the people running the country's affairs have failed to avert a historic crisis. It is thus surprising that the U.S. President some time ago claimed that America should lead the world. A question comes to mind here: How can a state whose president admits that crime and lack of security are at the head of its problems be in charge of the world's security and administration?

Turkish Air Strikes Against PKK Camp Assessed

NC3101172594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey's Air Attack on Zeli Camp in Iraq"]

[Text] The ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY has reported that Turkey's military aircraft carried out 52 sorties against the Zeli Camp in northern Iraq, which is 110 km from the Turkish border. According to the news agency, the objective of the air attack was to completely destroy the Zeli Camp, in which 1,600 Kurdish opponents of the Turkish Government were sheltered.

Considering the fact that, in the past, Turkish aircraft had hit targets up to 20 km into northern Iraq at most, this was the first time they penetrated to bomb positions of the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] deep inside northern Iraq. Referring to the latest operations against the PKK, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said: As far as the struggle waged against the PKK is concerned, 1994 is an important year.

Political observers believe that Ankara has launched a new phase in Turkey's operations against the PKK militants. Although, similar operations were carried out against the PKK in the past, Ankara's move to intensify the Turkish cross-border operations indicates that it is mostly worried by the developments in northern Iraq. However, several political observers are convinced that Ankara is more worried about the overt and covert policies of the European countries. They are also convinced that the fact that European countries give support to the Kurds in Iraq while remaining indifferent to the Turkish Government's suppression of the Kurds in Turkey accords with the policies of those Western Governments. The same observers believe that, considering the fact that the United States and the European countries act according to their own political interests, the Turkish officials are seeking several guarantees from the Western countries. The banning of the PKK's activities by the Bonn and Paris governments is regarded as in accord with Ankara's wishes.

However, the Turkish officials are still believed to be worried by the activities of the Kurds, who are opposed to the Turkish and Iraqi Governments. Considering this state of affairs, several political observers are convinced that the Ankara Government's military moves against the Kurds will not be successful. Therefore, they believe that political talks will be the most effective means of resolving the PKK problem. Undoubtedly, the Turkish Government's cross-border operations against northern Iraq violate the territorial integrity of Iraq, which is an independent country. Furthermore, if such operations continue, they may harm security and stability in the region. In view of this, the settlement of the problems in the region through cooperation among the regional countries without foreign interference would promote security in the region.

Turkish Delegation Expresses Regret Over Attack

LD0102141794 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azerbaijan Prov., Feb. 1, IRNA—A Turkish delegation on Monday [31 January] visited the victims of the last Friday bombardment of two villages in Sardasht by the Turkish jet fighters, hospitalized in this northwestern city.

The delegation headed by Turkey's Foreign Ministry director general for political affairs, Ogur Dugan, arrived here Monday to inspect the bombarded areas, visit the wounded and estimate the damage caused on the villages.

Talking to the victims the Turkish envoy expressed his government's deep regret over the incident.

Those injured, some in critical condition, gave a detailed account of the sudden attack of the Turkish warplanes on Qasemrash region of Sardasht, West Azerbaijan Province, and called on Iranian Government to follow up the issue.

The delegation also met with Deputy Governor General of the province Mohammad Ashtari.

Dugan described as irrational statement of the Turkish officials that they had informed the Iranian Government of the raid beforehand. He added that upon return he will make it known that such claims were unfounded.

Ashtari strongly protested the statement of the Turkish authorities and said in light of the formation of border security commissions and frequent exchange of visits between the two countries' officials in the past eighteen months, Tehran has always introduced Ankara as a friendly neighbor and a brother. However, he added, the attack raises serious questions in the mind of the public.

The Turkish official expressed deep regret over the incident and hoped that such incidents will be repeated in future. [sentence as received]

The Turkish delegation is to leave for Sardasht later today.

Mashhad Comments on Significance of ECO Seminar

NC2801182394 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dari 1430 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Political commentary: "The Seminar on the Trend of Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus"]

[Text] On the second day of its sessions yesterday, the international seminar on development in Central Asia and

the Caucasus continued its debates on various issues of regional cooperation and the outlook for Central Asia and the Caucasus.

During yesterday's sessions, the seminar, which included one general and one specialized sitting, was addressed by a group of experts and scholars from Iran and other participating countries. Each one presented his viewpoint on the various issues under discussion at the seminar.

Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American Affairs, was among the speakers in the Tuesday morning session at the seminar. He elaborated on the collaboration in the process of construction in Central Asian countries.

He stressed the need to establish tranquillity and stability in the region as one of the main principles and said that internal, external, or ethnic strife impedes growth and development.

The need to establish security, tranquillity, and stability in Central Asia and the Caucasus was among the topics focused on by the other speakers. The head of the Kyrgyzstan Science Academy, (Turkoychev), also spoke on this subject. He said that the continued war in some of the Central Asian Republics does affect their independence and called for the termination of all such conflicts as the most fundamental prerequisite for development. He also stressed that in the event of economic unity among these countries, they would become an important economic lever to be reckoned with.

In general, during the various sessions of this international seminar, the process of development in Central Asia and the Caucasus was discussed from various vantage points, including cultural, political, economic dimensions. Each of these topics, which have an impact on defining the future trend of regional development, merit attention because of their fundamental and noteworthy role.

Thus, as shown by the activities of this seminar and the remarks made by the participants from other countries, including Russia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, the United States, and Iran, at the session yesterday, it can be stated that this information on the events in the countries in the region can be effectively and practically used in any subsequent reviews of the problems in the region and in planning for its future development.

Rajavi Decries Regime's Plan Against Rebel Positions

JN3001104794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Paris, 30 Jan (INA)—Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council, has strongly condemned the statements made by the so-called Hasan Ruhani, secretary of the so-called Iranian Supreme Council for National Security, regarding the Iranian regime's plan to destroy rebel positions abroad.

In a cable addressed to the UN secretary general as well as the chairman and members of the UN Security Council, Rajavi said that these impudent statements clearly show the regime's intentions to launch military attacks on the bases of the Iranian National Liberation Army, and to carry out terrorist operations against resistance elements outside Iran—something that reflects the exacerbation of domestic crises, as well as increasing popular discontent with the regime's henchmen.

Rajavi urged the international community to enforce a sweeping arms and oil embargo against the Iranian regime. He indicated that a regime that advocates terrorism outside its own borders should have no place among the international community of nations.

Majles Continues Debate on National Budget

LD3001160794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] [Announcer] In its open session today the Majles approved the generalities of the national budget for the year 1373 [beginning 21 March] with an absolute majority. Our correspondent reports.

[Unidentified correspondent] Today's Majles open session and the continuing debate on the bill for next year's national budget were addressed initially by Rouqani Zanjani, the head of the plan and budget organization.

Emphasizing the need to reduce the country's budget dependency on oil income and to move toward other sources of income, he said: In drawing up next year's budget, the government has tried to provide for the greater part of the country's expenditure through tax incomes and to allocate oil income for development projects.

Pointing out that the income obtained from the increase in fuel and energy prices must be used for oil related development projects, he stressed: If Note 25 of the budget bill is dropped the projects will come to a stop.

Zanjani described the increase in fuel and energy prices to be within the context of implementing social justice and said: One of the reasons that progress is not taking place in industry and technology, in particular the production of vehicles, is the availability of cheap fuel in the country.

The head of the plan and budget organization also said that the reduction in the budget's income ceiling was the cause for the stoppage of a number of development projects in the country and reminded the deputies that: In drawing up next year's national budget, the government has set aside many of the projects and has reduced the number of national development projects in comparison to projects in provinces.

The oil minister also addressed the session on Note 25 of the budget bill, which concerns the increase in fuel and energy prices.

He said: We are presently paying a 11,000 billion rial fuel subsidy and if this process continues and we fail to find a solution, we will have more problems in the next development plan.

Speaking on the need to end the increase in fuel consumption, he said: In the second development plan we have looked into all possible solutions that could end consumption growth and we welcome any other solution that might reduce consumption.

Referring to the view of the Majles joint commission—on plan and budget, economic and financial affairs and cooperatives—regarding the adjustment of fuel and energy prices, he said: If the commission's suggestion is approved we will have to set aside some 700 billion rials of development projects in the oil industry.

He then referred to the negative effects of setting aside these projects.

[Announcer] In the continuation of the Majles open session, Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh pointed out that the average monthly income for home consumers is 180 kilowatts [kw], but two thirds use less than 180 kw.

According to a commission decision, the price increase will not effect consumption up to 500 kw, and 96.6 percent of consumers will not be effected; furthermore the price increase does not effect agricultural usage or 99 percent of hot regions, he said.

He clarified that the electric energy price increase will effect less than one percent of the industry.

Stating that an annual 2.1 trillion rial subsidy is being paid for electricity, the energy minister said: Social justice does not demand payment of such subsidies or more subsidy for bigger consumers.

Zangeneh said the proposed increase in electricity rates would be spent on implementing projects for the oil industry and reminded the deputies that otherwise, many of the projects that are sources of employment will come to a stop.

In today's open session, Mohammad Gharazi, the minister for post, telegraph, and telephone also spoke about the increase in the volume of activity in post and communications as well as improvement in service provided for the public.

He said: You can rest assured that people will pay if you provide the various services for them. The country is an arena for development and people want progress. He emphasized: Movement must be such as to allow a change from subsidizing to permanent investment.

The report by our correspondent indicates that following the 10-hour period allocated for speeches by deputies for and against, as well as explanations given by the joint commission and government representatives on the principles of next year's national budget bill, voting was held and the bill was approved in principle.

As required by Majles regulations following the approval of the bill in principle, the review of proposals by Majles commissions and deputies regarding the budget incomes started.

Today's open Majles session had a break at noon and deliberations on the proposals followed after the restart at 1400.

Majles Approves Oil Ceiling

LD3001192294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The Islamic Majles continued its debate of the budget bill for the year 1373 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1994] in its second open session this afternoon. During this session, amendments and supplements to the revenue section of the budget bill, proposed by the Majles deputies and commissions, were raised and some of the proposals were approved.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, the session approved the ceiling for oil revenue income to $10,721,300,000, equivalent to 17.652 trillion rials. [passage omitted]

In order to realize the income from the envisioned figures of taxation, direct tax exemption of state companies announced in the years 1372 and 1373, except in certain instances, is no longer valid.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is permitted to tax the manufacturing units which fail to provide sports and cultural facilities within their workshops for the employees. The tax charge will be 12,000 rials per employee per year. All the state companies affiliated to various foundations are also dutybound to allocate at least two percent of their profit before tax, from last year, to provision of teaching and training centers and university grants for the children of their employees.

The country's municipalities are dutybound to allocate two percent of their income before tax for the year 1373 to provision of teaching and training centres and university grants for the children of their employees.

The Ministry of Education and Training is permitted to sell all or parts of its lands, administrative premises or teaching buildings at the market price; and deposit the income from the sale to the Treasury account.

Our correspondent reports that according to one of the sections on income in the ninth note of the national budget bill, the law enforcement forces will be allowed to receive and transfer to government purse up to 10 billion rials from the sale of movable and immovable property.

They are also allowed to receive and transfer up to 15,000 rials from every vehicle through the program for the change of vehicle number plates.

The law enforcement forces are allowed to issue vehicle inspection documents and to receive and transfer to government purse a minimum of 500 rials and a maximum of 3,000 rials for each vehicle.

The customs office is also responsible to levy a 5 rial tax on every imported cigarette and 200 rials on every kilo of pistachio export.

The study of the budget bill will continue in today's third open session which will start at 1900.

Taxes Increased on Imports

LD3001214094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The Islamic Majles resumed its open session at 1900 hours on Sunday. During this session some proposals of the deputies and Majles commissions were approved on revenue figures of the budget bill for the year 1373 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1994]. On the basis of these proposals various ministries, state organizations, and companies are permitted to hire out or sell at least 20 percent of their vehicles so as to meet their service costs in the year 1373. The said organizations are obliged to sell at least 12 percent of their equipment, which are not fully utilized, to the value of 400 billion rials in the year 1373. The income from such sales should be deposited in the state general revenue account.

On the basis of another ratified note, in the year 1373 all imported goods should be registered. The registration fee for the essential commodities is five rials per every dollar, or its equivalent in other hard currencies, of the commodity's value. For the non-essential commodities the registration fee is 40 rials per dollar.

Any person importing a vehicle, in addition to the existing taxes and customs charges, should pay 10 percent of the basic value of the vehicle to obtain a number plate for the vehicle.

On the basis of another ratified note, any passenger entering the country, even from the free ports, can import goods up to the value of 150,000 rials without having to pay customs charges and tariffs.

According to our correspondent's report, on the basis of the notes approved during this session of the Islamic Majles, in order to improve the quality of higher education and for more efficient utilization of the country's educational establishments, higher education institutes are allowed to charge the students who fail some subjects. That is, if a student fails in one or several subjects, he must pay cash or promise to pay later all the charges incurred by the state to enable him to repeat the subjects. The universities and the research and higher education institutes are also permitted to let their premises and facilities at the fair market rate, provided their own research works and operations are not undermined.

$10.7 Billion Oil Revenue Budgeted

LD3101101694 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—The country's overall oil revenue in the next year's budget bill was set at rls. 17,651,988,000,000 or dlrs. 10,721,300,000 by the deputies in the Majlis open session Sunday. Deliberations on 1373 (starting March 21) budget bill began Saturday and its outline was approved yesterday. Discussion on other sources of the government revenue still continues in the Majlis.

Price Increases on Oil Rejected

LD3101110294 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Increase in prices of natural gas, gasoline, kerosene, gas oil and fuel oil, predicted in the next year budget bill, was voted down by the Majles deputies Monday.

In its open session today, the Majles deliberating the 1373 (starting March 21) budget bill, did not approve the paragraph (a) of the note 25 of the proposed bill.

The paragraph had envisaged that prices of each liter of gasoline, kerosene, gas oil and fuel oil were to increase to rls. 80, 20, 15 and 10 respectively and each cubic meter of gas to rls. 12.4.

After the proposed amendments for the paragraph were not approved, the paragraph itself was voted down by the deputies.

According to the rules, when the draft of an article is not approved, the Majles votes for its elimination.

In continuation of the session, the Majles voted for elimination of the paragraph (a) of the note 25.

In its open session last night, the Majles voted down the elimination of the note 25 and then paragraph (a) of the note.

Majles Approves More Budget Clauses

LD3101215794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] With the approval of Majles deputies, any increase in 1373 [1994-5] in prices, taxes, subscription fees, application and connection charges, and any other charges relating to electricity, telephone, post, and subscription charges for agricultural water is forbidden.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the second session of the Majles, which was held at 1400 hours today, proposals by Majles committees and deputies regarding the revenues section of the Budget Bill for next year were debated, and a number of proposals were approved.

Under the approvals of the session, the average postal charge for any package is set at 100 rials, including 25 rials tax. Also, local and trunk telephone calls will be charged according to 1372 [1993-4] tariffs. As an incentive to subscribers, the Communications Company is to adopt special international tariffs during [off-peak] hours when the company receives international discounts.

Also, any increase is forbidden in 1373 in prices, taxes, subscription charges, connection and application charges, and any other charges relating to electricity, telephone,

post and subscription charge for agricultural water, except for cases mentioned in the clause. [passage omitted]

Under another approval the equivalent of 50 percent of the price of properties—up to 3 trillion rials—which the Intelligence Ministry obtains in the course of its legal activities, which is calculated as the country's general revenues, is to be placed at the disposal of the ministry.

The Intelligence Ministry is also to pay into the Treasury, toward the country's general revenues, the domestic and foreign currency earned in the course of its legal activities, from financial misappropriations, bribes, and sale of intelligence.

Under another approval the country's overall commercial and foreign currency policies in 1373 should be such that the total of the country's foreign currency commitments are 1.6 billion dollars less at the end of 1373 than they are at the beginning of 1373.

The Central Bank is also to convert into rials—85 percent at the floating exchange rate and 15 percent at the official exchange rate at the end of Esfand 1371 [February-March 1992]—the foreign currency obtained from the sale of every oil consignment or oil by-products on receipt of the foreign currency, and pay the sums obtained into the country's general revenues' account. [passage omitted on headquarters for reconstruction of war-damaged zones and fisheries to sell some of their assets and pay the sums into the Treasury; taxes on various sectors including hotels, tourism, printing, tobacco, sports, and unspecified airport tax]

In the second session today, a debate on proposals about the revenues section of the Budget Bill was completed. Approving and announcing the ceiling of revenues in the Budget Bill for next year were postponed until tomorrow's session.

Zanjani: State Revenue Cut by 3 Trillion Rials

LD3101175994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Interview with Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani, the Iranian vice president and head of the Budget and Planning Organization, by an unidentified correspondent on 31 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Following the Islamic Majles debate of the budget bill for the year 1373 [1994-94] today, our correspondent interviewed Mr. Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani, the vice president and the head of the Budget and Planning Organization. We draw our dear viewers attention to this interview.

[Correspondent] The deputies and various commissions of the Islamic Majles have proposed amendments to the Budget Bill for the year 1373, some of which were ratified. The Majles has approved the ceiling for the revenue earned from the sale of oil, and also the revenue from taxation. I would like to ask Mr. Masud Roghani Zanjani to explain the government's revenue for the year 1373 and the effect of the Majles amendments.

[Zanjani] Up until now, that is 725 [figure not further clarified], the total revenue originally proposed by the government is reduced by 3 trillion rials. Since we are in the second reading of the expenditure debate, it is not yet clear how the esteemed Majles intends to distribute the cut among various departments. No doubt there will be some cuts in the current expenditure and some in the [long-term] development plans. It is certainly clear that if we were to put this into practice, it would be impossible to implement some of the country's current plans. We have to wait and see what policies the Majles will adopt vis-a-vis the expenditure now that revenue is reduced.

[Correspondent] What sort of price have you envisaged for a barrel of oil to reach the figure of revenue ceiling from the oil sale? And what will be the daily production figure?

[Zanjani] The Majles has compiled the budget at [estimated figure of] 13 dollars [per barrel]; whereas the government's figure was different. For the same reason the oil revenue is reduced.

[Correspondent] What about taxation?

[Zanjani] The Majles has proposed increased taxation figure. That is, we had proposed taxation revenue of 6.4 trillion [rials]; whereas, the esteemed Majles has proposed 7.88 trillion rials for the time being. The figure has not been finalized yet.

Struggles With Economic Problems, Reform Described

NC3001091494 Paris AFP in English 0739 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By Laurent Maillard]

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30 (AFP)—Fifteen years after Iran's Islamic revolution, businessmen drive brand-new Mercedes, advertising billboards abound, and newspapers publish stock quotations.

And workers demonstrate against rising prices as well as unemployment, corruption spreads, and hardliners denounce the abandonment of revolutionary ideals.

When the Islamic revolution triumphed on February 1, 1979 in the name of the have-nots, it made austerity a virtue and nationalized entire sectors of the economy.

A decade and a half later, Iran has reversed course and headed toward a market economy, a process which has plunged the government into an unprecedented crisis and hit the poor severely.

The liberalization drive was launched by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, just one year after the revolution's charismatic leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, died in 1989.

Hoping to revive an economy disrupted first by the revolution and then by the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, Hashemi-Rafsanjani steadily removed subsidies, started monetary reform, and backed privatization of industry and services.

He allowed foreign products back into Iran and urged wealthy Iranians who had fled abroad during the revolution to return home.

Liberalization filled stores with goods, plunged the country into a spending spree after a decade of scarcity, and brought new life into the Tehran Bazaar, the economy's traditional driving force.

It also led to new fortunes for those who invested in real estate.

Tehran's relationship with Washington is a symbol of its current pragmatism.

While the leadership and the press continue to label Washington as the "Great Satan" and the revolution's foremost enemy, the United States in the past few years has become one of Iran's main trading partners.

But this "second revolution" is going through increasingly hard times as the government fails to control it properly and some politicians and religious figures slow it down for fear of its social consequences.

The return to a market economy and a sharp depreciation of the rial have produced runaway inflation and impoverished much of the population who can no longer afford many items especially as subsidies have been withdrawn.

Corruption, which had disappeared in the first few years after the revolution, has returned at an alarming pace.

Uncontrolled imports combined with falling oil revenues have placed Iran on the brink of bankruptcy.

According to western sources, Iran for the first time in its history is unable to reimburse its debts, and has accumulated 13 billion dollars in arrears in 18 months. The figure amounts to one year of oil revenue.

The austerity policy Iran has adopted to overcome the financial crisis has led to a steep fall in imports over the past year but at the same time sparked a crisis for industry which depends heavily on imported equipment.

Many factories are currently working at half or quarter capacity. For the first time since the revolution, tens of thousands of workers have been laid off, which has aggravated social tension.

The current crisis, the most serious since the revolution, has sparked sometimes brisk debate between free-market supporters and an increasing number who back a return to revolutionary basics and a centralized economy.

As the debate continues, many Iranian and foreign economic observers do not rule out that the government—divided and unable to assume the political price of its reforms—might turn inward again.

Officials 'Ban' Mohtashami Speech in Sari

NC3101142894 Tehran SALAM in Persian 25 Jan 94 p 2

[Text] Following reports by one of the evening newspapers regarding a ban on the speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami in Sari, our correspondent contacted him for clarification on this matter.

Mohtashami said: A month ago, the Hezbollah center invited me to speak on the occasion of the approaching auspicious Ten Day Dawn. Ten days ago, one of the members of the center contacted me and said that local officials objected to my addressing the center and did not consider it expedient. He then told me that it was the governor general himself who objected and created problems, so that my scheduled speech would be canceled. The governor general informed the center that if the event was not canceled, law enforcement officials would stop it.

Mohtashami was asked: Did you complain to the relevant authorities?

Mohtashami said: I do not know whether there are any relevant authorities for such a complaint! In principle, a complaint about the governor general should be made to the interior minister. However, when the minister himself bans a legal march by students, and then openly defends his action and condemns the students in an address to the Majles, how can I complain to him?! In response to a question on whether the Hezbollah center in Sari has lodged an official complaint, Mohtashami stated: It is unlikely that the center would do so. Those at the center are employed in various organizations and institutions and if they display any resistance, their employment can be terminated.

In response to a question on whether Mohtashami received an apology from officials, he replied in the negative and added: The center was threatened with complete closure if such a speech were made.

Algerian Leader Urged To Free Madani, Belhadj

LD0102113494 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—The daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Tuesday recommended the newly-selected Algerian president to unconditionally release Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj if he wishes to show sincerity regarding a national reconciliation.

General Liamine Zeroual was selected by the Algerian High Security Council as the new president Sunday.

The English daily said that Zeroual enjoys a good reputation compared to the five members of the current unelected collective presidency. "Nevertheless, his presidency cannot bring legitimacy to the Algerian regime."

Noting that the Algerian problem is of a politico-military nature, the editorial said "Algeria's efforts to destroy its domestic opposition and to accuse other countries of interfering in its internal affairs have met with failure.

"If Zeroual truly wants a national reconciliation...He should realize that his time to legitimize his own presidency and the Algerian Goverment is limited.

The process of legitimization must take place soon or the current conflict would blow up into a full-fledged civil war, the daily added.

"This legitimacy must be approved by the people of Algeria, not by Paris or Washington," wrote the editorial.

Pastor's Murder Linked to Religious Activities

NC0102105694 Paris AFP in English 2245 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31 (AFP)—The murder of an Iranian pastor, Hayk Hovsepian, whose body was recovered recently, was connected with the religious activities of the small Protestant sect he led, Hovsepian's relatives told AFP Monday [31 January].

One member of the victim's family, requesting anonymity, said the leader of the "Assembly of God" had felt he was "in danger since he brought to the world's attention in January the case of fellow Assembly of God pastor Mehdi Dibaj, originally a Moslem, who was sentenced to death for having converted".

Hovsepian disappeared on January 19 while he was travelling by car to Tehran airport.

Police photographs of his body, shown to the family, indicated wounds to the abdomen and chest.

The body was found the following day in a street in the Eslamabad area, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of Tehran.

However, the family said they were not informed of Hovsepian's death until Sunday, and they were unable to see the body, because it was buried unusually quickly at Tehran's huge Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery.

On Monday they were granted permission to bury the body with a religious ceremony at a Protestant cemetery.

No official account was given to the family about the circumstances of Hovsepian's death, the authorities saying simply that an investigation was in progress.

Another relative who requested anonymity said Hovsepian "had no enemies—the only problem was that he led the Assembly of God."

"Our church is very active in trying to spread the message of the Bible, and the government asked us to stop propagating our religion," the relative said, adding that the authorities recently closed several of the Protestant sect's places of worship, after it refused to stop spreading the faith.

The sect says it has some 3,000 members in Iran.

Several of its members told AFP that the Assembly of God followers had been subjected to "pressure and intimidation" from the authorities throughout Iran in recent months.

Relatives said Hovsepian's death was connected with his campaign to alert the world community to the case of Mehdi Dibaj, detained for nine years and recently sentenced to death, according to the Assembly of God, for having converted to Christianity.

Dibaj was freed on bail on January 15 following international pressure, particularly from the Vatican and other European countries, including France.

The Iranian authorities denied that Dibaj had been sentenced to death, and said he was simply accused of "offences against the Moslem Prophet (Mohammad) and Imam (Ayatollah) Khomeyni", founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pakistan

Spokesman Condemns Indian 'Massacre' in Kashmir

BK3001141894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has condemned the latest massacre perpetrated by Indian occupation forces in the Kashmiri town of Kupwara on 27 January. Indian Army personnel fired indiscriminately into a crowded market place in the town, killing over 20 innocent people and injuring many more. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today the government and people of Pakistan have been deeply anguished over this brutal incident. He called upon the Indian Government to punish the perpetrators of the carnage, provide proper medical treatment to the injured, and compensate the families of the martyrs. The spokesman also urged the international community to take cognizance of the plight and suffering of the Kashmiri people and to persuade the Indian Government to stop its campaign of repression and atrocities against the people of Jammu and Kashmir and allow them to exercise their right to self- determination.

Press Release Denies Rockets Fired at Border Town

BK3001142894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has categorically rejected the allegation which appeared in the Indian press that a rocket attack by Pakistani troops took place in a border township of Punch. An official press release issued in Islamabad today says there has been no violation of the cease-fire from the Pakistani side. The reports played up in the Indian press are obviously part of the propaganda war being currently waged by New Delhi to divert world attention from the atrocities and human rights violations by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir.

Sources React to Indian Charges on Afghan Mojahedin

NC2901125194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0907 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Islamabad, 29 Jan (MENA)—The Indian Government today accused Pakistan of training over 10,000 Afghan mojahedin prior to sending them to the Indian state of Kashmir to escalate acts of violence and extremism in the state. [passage omitted]

Reports coming into Islamabad today indicated that three senior Indian security officials died and a number of others were wounded in clashes in Srinagar Province.

Responding to the Indian charges, knowledgeable sources in Islamabad said today that the Indian threats to launch "a limited war" along the line of control on Kashmir will not force Pakistan to abandon its stand on the Kashmir issue.

The Pakistani sources told MENA that if India truly fears that "a limited war" will break out and affirms that there is shooting on the line, it has not informed Pakistan of this officially through the hot line between the directors of military operations in the two countries. The sources stressed that Indian allegations about the Afghan mojahedin infiltrating Kashmir are baseless. They said Indian patrols roam about the entire line and that they mined and erected barbed wire along it.

The Pakistani sources explained that the mountainous passages, the only way in for infiltrators all along the line, have been completely blocked by snow and that it is impossible to pass through them.

As regards shooting along the line of control, the Pakistani sources said the Indian forces over the past four years have been firing provocatively all along the line in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The sources added that it is estimated that India killed over 600 civilians on the Pakistani side of the border recently, while Pakistan avoids shooting at civilian targets.

The sources accused India of waging a war against unarmed civilians in Kashmir and called on India to stop this war immediately.

These sources affirmed that Islamabad has no intention of using force and noted that Pakistan does not interfere in Kashmir but supports the just aspirations of the Kashmiri people who are struggling for their right to self-determination.

Two Killed, Five Injured in Karachi Violence

BK3101160594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Two persons were killed and five injured in some shooting incidents in the Korangi area of Karachi today. Violent mobs also set four vehicles on fire. The district magistrate and law enforcement agencies are patrolling the area.

Further on Incidents

BK3101163494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The district magistrate, Karachi East, has issued a press note this evening. It says that after the murder of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Haqiqi Group activist, Zafar Abbas, yesterday in Korangi area, some incidents of violence erupted in the jurisdiction of Landhi, Korangi, and the Shah Faisal Colony and Malir police stations. Miscreants this morning opened fire in Korangi on a van carrying five persons. Two of them received fatal injuries and afterwards died in hospital. Two vans were set on fire by unknown persons in Shah Faisal and Korangi areas. The situation in these areas is peaceful and under control.

Court Overrules Order Dissolving Punjab Local Councils

BK3101040094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] A single bench of the Lahore High Court headed by Mr. Justice Amin Malik has declared as illegal the notification issued by the former Punjab caretaker government dissolving the local councils. The court has asked the provincial government to hold the new elections of the local councils by 31 March this year. The court said that if the government fails to hold election by that time, the dissolved local councils will be restored by 1 April.

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